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ARAB TIMES

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آج کا روز سخنات میں
○ افغانستان سے سفر
○ فوجوں کی ولیمی کمپنی میں
کوئی کسی کی معاشرات
○ برداشت میں کرکٹ کھیل سے
سلان رہنمی کے قابل ہے
○ دل لاکھڑا کا نام

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE remains below normal with light to moderate north-easterly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 10.00 am, 7.00 pm
Low water: 3.00 am, 2.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.28 am
Sunset: 5.38 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 15°C 39°F
Ahmadi: 14°C 57°F
Fallaka: 13°C 55°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 0°C 32°F
Ahmadi: 0°C 43°F
Fallaka: 0°C 41°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmadi: 14°C 57°F
Fallaka: 14°C 57°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 64 per cent
Ahmadi: 64 per cent
Fallaka: 65 per cent

30,000 rebels surround Kabul Last Soviet soldier quits Afghanistan

TERMEZ, USSR, Feb 15. (Agencies): The last Soviet troops rolled home from Afghanistan today after nine years of war and 50,000 casualties, leaving behind a ravaged nation swarming with the same guerrillas the Red Army went to fight.

Verified

UN military observers who monitored the Soviet withdrawal of personnel carriers across the steel Friendship Bridge spanning the Amu Darya River just 40 minutes before the noon (0730 GMT) withdrawal deadline set under a UN-mediated agreement.

Lieut. Gen. Boris Gromov, commander of the Red Army contingent in Afghanistan rode the last armoured personnel carrier.

His 14-year-old son Maxim ran to him and the two walked the final steps to the Soviet city of Termez.

At the border, the sunburned

45-year-old general, who bears the honorary title of a hero of the Soviet Union, said his thoughts were with countrymen who died in Afghanistan, "but most importantly about those who have come home."

Loyalty

Facing them were 30,000 Afghan Army conscripts with little loyalty to the Marxist government, according to Western intelligence estimates. Some guerrilla commanders say they expect stronger resistance from an estimated 20,000 secret police, elite guardsmen, police and armed Communist Party members.

The rebels say they have no desire for a bloodbath, but they have been unable to agree on the makeup of a coalition government that would take over if the

(Continued on Page 2)



Lieutenant General Gromov waves back towards Afghanistan as he crosses the border into the USSR. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kuwait is seeking better relations with Iran: Premier

NEW YORK, Feb 15. (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has been quoted as saying he is optimistic of the negotiations between Iran and Iraq to end their protracted war.

"So far, I am optimistic, because the Iranians have made it very clear they are willing to end this war," Sheikh Saad said in remarks published in the New York Sunday Daily News.

Sheikh Saad also said Kuwait is seeking better relations with Iran to end past misunderstandings created by the Gulf war.

Present relations between Kuwait and Iran are heading towards the right direction, the Crown Prince said, noting that Kuwait has reopened its Tehran embassy.

Improve

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti staff at the embassy in Tehran is working to improve relations between both countries.

But Sheikh Saad warned that Kuwait would not allow any foreign country to interfere in its domestic affairs.

"We are closely following negotiations in Geneva, and have not objected to resume

good relations with Iran, as long as they don't interfere in our domestic affairs," the Crown Prince said.

Commenting on Sheikh Saad's remarks, the magazine said despite its proximity to the Gulf war, "Kuwait has managed to maintain a neutral posture that has guided it through the Iran-Iraq crisis and enabled it to preserve its territorial independence."

"We were very worried during the war, but thanks to God, we followed a wise policy," said Sheikh Saad.

Accused

"Iran sometimes accused Kuwait of supporting Iraq, but we explained to the Iranians that although we are Arabs and close to Iraq, we had not offered military help, because the country didn't need military support from Kuwait," the Kuwaiti leader went on.

Sheikh Saad expressed satisfaction on relations with the United States, but suggested "the time has come for the US to put some sort of pressure on Israel to withdraw from the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights — Arab lands seized in the 1967 war."

Education minister wounded in attack

Arab Times report

KUWAIT'S Education Minister Abdullah Al Nouri was on Tuesday night attacked by a hatchet-wielding assailant, who was identified as Abdul Aziz Abbas Khurshed by an Interior Ministry official.

Nouri was injured in the attack and taken to the Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital. The minister was reported to be in satisfactory condition yesterday.

The incident occurred on Tuesday at about 8.00 pm when Nouri was visiting the diwania of the Finance Minister, Jassem Al Khorafi.

Suicide

According to a source, Khurshed was present at the diwania, when Nouri arrived. Khurshed left the room and returned shortly afterwards with a hatchet, which he hid inside his bishit, and suddenly attacked Nouri. The motive of the attack is not yet known.

Investigations have revealed that Khurshed has been suffering from a split personality syndrome due to the recent death of his brother Hamzah and the sickness of his son.

Dr Ali A. Al Shamali, the Minister of Higher Education will officiate in Nouri's place during the latter's absence, according to a decree.



Al Nouri

Khurshed tried to commit suicide after the incident by burning himself. He was badly burned and is now at the intensive care unit of the Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital.

Nouri's brother Mohammad who tried to save Khurshed also received severe burns, officials said. Mohammad was playing cards at the diwania when the incident occurred.

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56 killed in election violence

Sri Lankans defy polling booth attacks

COLOMBO, Feb 15. (Agencies): Millions of voters defied polling booth attacks, bombings and assassinations by political extremists and cast ballots in Sri Lanka's first parliamentary polls in more than a decade, officials said. At least 56 people were reported killed and 27 injured.

Officials overseeing security for the elections reported violent incidents in every one of the Indian Ocean island's eight provinces, with virtually all of the bloodshed blamed on the leftist Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP), or Peoples Liberation Front, which vowed to derail the contests and kill anyone participating.

About 41,000 troops and police, assisted by an Indian force of an estimated 60,000 soldiers posted in the Tamil-dominated northeast, were deployed for the contests for the 225-member parliament. Some 9.37 million people were eligible to

One slaying in Northeastern Province was attributed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the only group of rebels of the ethnic Tamil minority that is still waging a more than five-year war for independence for the Tamil-dominated north and east.

Assisted

The newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, Al Thawra, quoted Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying in Amman the ACC must achieve the highest possible degree of co-operation.

"The birth of the council will be a serious, practical and realistic one with a solid basis for future Arab action," he said.

A senior Jordanian official in

(Continued on Page 2)

President Saddam drove in separate open-car processions with his guests through streets lined with people. Some schools were given a holiday for the occasion and Baghdad Television opened during the morning to broadcast special programmes.

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Baath Party, Al Thawra, quoted Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying in Amman the ACC must achieve the highest possible degree of co-operation.

"The goal is a united market

and we want it to start with a

strong base before we expand."

An unofficial text of the draft

document printed in Amman's Al Dustour newspaper said the

ACC aimed at "the highest levels

of co-operation, co-operation,

integration and solidarity" in

economic, social, educational

and cultural matters.

Amman said the draft document

agreed there set out the broad

aims and structure for the new

economic club.

"We are talking about a gen-

eral outlook, not specific

details," he said. "Now we are

agreeing on the goal and later we

will discuss the means to achieve

it."

"The goal is a united market

and we want it to start with a

strong base before we expand."

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and cultural matters.

(Continued on Page 2)

4 Arab leaders gather to form new economic group

BAGHDAD, Feb 15. (Reuter): The leaders of Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq gathered in Baghdad today to form a new Arab economic grouping with the ultimate aim of creating a common market.

An Arab diplomat said the leaders would announce formation of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) tomorrow after the prime ministers of the four states had signed a draft document in Amman early today.

King Hussein of Jordan joined Presidents Hosni Mubarak of

Egypt, Ali Abdullah Saleh of

North Yemen and Iraq's Sad-

dam Hussein in Baghdad for the

summit.

The birth of the council will be a serious, practical and realistic one with a solid basis for future Arab action," he said.

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Another food-poisoning scare erupts in UK

LONDON, Feb 15. (Reuters): Another food-poisoning scare has erupted in Britain as critics accuse the government of presenting the public with a chaotic menu of warnings about eggs, chilled meals and now cheese.

"This time it's foot-in-mouth disease," headlined the Daily Mail yesterday, as cabinet ministers seemed to contradict each other.

"There appears to be some confusion," Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher acknowledged amid uproar in Parliament when pressed by Labour opposition leader Neil Kinnock to clarify statements by two ministers over a possible ban on cheese made from unpasteurised milk.

Warnings

The leader of Britain's farmers said the government had sown confusion and hysteria in its handling of a cheese poisoning scare just weeks after warnings about contaminated eggs and bacteria in supermarket chilled food.

"Listeria has turned to hysteria," said Simon Gourlay, chairman of the National Farmers Union (NFU). He was referring to a potentially lethal bacteria which government

officials warned has been found in soft, unpasteurised cheeses.

Gourlay accused the government of completely mishandling the issue and failing to co-ordinate between ministries.

Friday's announcement prompted fears among British and French farmers that sale and import of the cheeses might be banned.

Last weekend tabloid newspapers published front-page reports with bawler headlines such as "Cheese can kill you baby".

Two British ministers added to confusion on Monday by making apparently contradictory statements about the purported danger.

Proposals

Agriculture Minister John MacGregor said in Brussels that proposals to ban the cheeses had been rejected. But within hours, Health Minister Kenneth Clarke said MacGregor was still considering a ban.

The latest food poisoning scare came just weeks after then-Junior Health Minister Edwina Currie said most of Britain's egg production was infected with salmonella bacteria and egg sales fell by half.

Reporter breaches Heathrow security

LONDON, Feb 15, (Reuters): A British reporter took photographs of himself inside the cockpit of a Pan Am jumbo jet parked at London's Heathrow airport, where he said he used a false name to get a cleaning job.

The cleaning company which employed Today newspaper reporter Steve Boggan under the false name of Shaun Turle, said it was suspending operations at the airport pending a Pan Am investigation.

He was the third British journalist to pose as a cleaning worker and gain access to the tarmac at Heathrow in the last month. After the previous incidents, British Transport Secretary Paul Channon ordered a security crackdown.

Tested

The reporters tested security following the Dec 21 bombing that destroyed a Pan Am Boeing 747 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing 270 people.

Boggan said he filled in an employment form with false information and was allowed into a Pan Am maintenance hangar without ever having been formally interviewed or vetted.

A photograph of "Turle's" identity pass issued by the cleaning company appeared in the newspaper.

"As my workmates took a meal break, I walked past a (security) guard and climbed the 747's spiral staircase to the cockpit," he wrote in the newspaper yesterday.

"For two minutes I sat in the pilot's seat.... I took the steering column in my hands and set the camera to take a picture. No one outside appeared to see the flash in the cockpit and I walked out unchallenged."

He said he spent five minutes in the cockpit, took six photographs and pinpointed at least six places where a terrorist could have hidden a plastic explosives bomb the same size as his camera.

A colour photograph of Boggan in the cockpit, which he said he took with the camera on a timer, appears on the front page of Today.

Baker discusses alliance problems with De Mita

ROME, Feb 15, (UPI): US Secretary of State James Baker met today with Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita, discussing alliance problems that ranged from terrorism to short range missiles.

Baker is midway through his six-day trip to 14 European NATO countries.

Immediately after his talks with De Mita, Baker returned to Rome's top security Clampino military airport, where his special plane left for Madrid at 11:00 am (1000 GMT). From Madrid he was scheduled to fly to Lisbon and later today to Brussels, where Baker will meet NATO and Belgian officials.

In Rome international cooperation in combating terrorism and co-operation in fighting international drug trafficking were among topics discussed in Baker's one-hour meeting with De Mita at the prime minister's Chigi Palace office.

Suffering

The talks with De Mita were Baker's only formal encounter during his 15-hour visit to Rome. He had been scheduled to meet

veteran Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, 70, immediately after his arrival late yesterday. But Andreotti had to cancel the meeting because he was suffering from a migraine headache.

In the talks at the Chigi Palace, De Mita was flanked by Ambassador Bruno Bottai, secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry.

Baker has described this trip as "an agenda setting" journey in which no discussions are planned or expected. Those decisions, including when and whether to modernise short-range nuclear missiles stationed in northern Europe, will be discussed at a NATO summit tentatively scheduled for late May in Brussels.

Baker discovered that the missile modernisation issue is a politically explosive one in West Germany, where Chancellor Helmut Kohl is under severe political pressure to push for a delay or cancellation of the modernisation.

Baker has discovered also that the impact of Mikhail Gorbachev's liberalisation policies in the Soviet Union and Eastern

Europe are having a dramatic impact on public opinion in the countries he is visiting.

Baker has asked his NATO partners to try to figure out a way to respond to the public relations offensive coming from Moscow.

Baker, under pressure to adhere to high ethical standards espoused by President Bush, said he ordered the sale of all his publicly traded stocks.

Stock

Baker's ownership of stock in a New York bank holding company had raised the prospect of a possible conflict of interest because Baker, as Secretary of State, will play a pivotal role in setting US policy on Third World debt issues.

Baker holds stock valued at more than \$250,000 in Chemical New York Corp., a successor firm to Chemical Bank, which holds billions of dollars in Third World debt.

An aide said Baker decided on Saturday in London, after consulting with lawyers, to sell all of his publicly owned stocks. Baker is on a 14-nation tour of NATO countries.

Rain Man tops nominations for Academy awards

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Feb 15, (AP): "Rain Man," a road movie featuring a scheming car salesman learning to love his autistic brother, topped nominations for the 61st Academy awards today with eight nods, including best picture.

The movie also received nominations for Dustin Hoffman as best actor and best director for Barry Levinson.

Earning seven nominations each were "Dangerous Liaisons," a drama hinging on the bed-hopping seductions of the wealthy in pre-revolutionary France, and "Mississippi Burning," the controversial depiction of the FBI's investigation of the slaying of three civil rights workers in 1964.

Salaam Bombay

Nominated for best foreign language film were India's "Salaam Bombay," Hungary's "Hamusen," Belgium's "The Music Teacher," Spain's "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," and Denmark's "Felle the Conqueror."

Actress Sigourney Weaver claimed a rare Oscar double nomination, for best actress for "Gorillas in the Mist" and for "Working Girl."

Joining Weaver in the best actress competition were Glenn Close for "Dangerous Liaisons," Jodie Foster for "The Accused," Meryl Streep for "A Cry in the Dark," and, in her first Oscar nomination, Melanie Griffith for "Working Girl."

Their male counterparts, joining "Rain Man's" Hoffman were Gene Hackman for "Mississippi Burning." He was joined by Oscar nominee newcomers Tom Hanks for "Big," Edward James Olmos for "Stand and Deliver," and veteran actor Max von Sydow for Denmark's "Felle the Conqueror."

In addition to Levinson's nomination for "Rain Man," best director nominees included Charles Crichton for "A Fish Called Wanda," Martin Scorsese for the controversial "The Last Temptation of Christ," Alan Parker for "Mississippi Burning,"

John Goodman for "Working Girl," and, in a surprise nomination, John Goodman for "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent."

Nominated for best supporting actress were Joan Cusack from "Working Girl," Geena Davis for "The Accidental Tourist," Frances McDormand for "Mississippi Burning," Michelle Pfeiffer for "Dangerous Liaisons," and "Working Girl's" Weaver.

Brown dies

PARIS, Feb 15, (UPI): Labour activist Irving Brown, the US government's eminence grise in the promotion of free trade unionism in Europe and Africa for 45 years, died at the age of 77, the AFL-CIO announced today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ransom paid

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Feb 15, (AP): Police searched today for the abductors of former Prime Minister Paul Vandervelde, a day after the family of the Christian Democrat paid a hefty ransom for his release.

On Tuesday, Vandervelde, 71, returned home from a month in captivity after his family paid "several tens of millions of francs" for his release, said Brussels deputy prosecutor Andre Vandoren. Ten million francs is \$255,000.

"It's not over. The investigation continues on all fronts," prosecutor Andre Rutten told reporters.

Hunger strike

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 15, (UPI): About 300 detainees in South African jails will press ahead with a hunger strike despite Pretoria's release of 40 detainees and promises that more will be freed soon, supporters of the strikers said today.

"My brother, who was to be weak he could only stay for five minutes, said he and his colleagues would continue with the strike until they are charged or released," said John Bulkley, whose brother Paul has been in detention since October 1987.

Death penalty

GENEVA, Feb 15, (UPI): Amnesty International reported today a growing global trend towards abolition of the death penalty with executions banned by law or not practiced in almost half the world's countries.

"Some 80 countries—close to half of all countries in the world (168)—are abolitionist either by law or practice," it said.

Activist ambushed

BELFAST, Feb 15, (UPI): A local councilor of the political wing of the Irish Republican Army was shot dead outside his Northern Ireland home last night, a year after he survived a previous attempt on his life.

John Davey, a Sinn Fein member of the Magherafelt district council in the centre of the British-ruled province, was ambushed by three men when he returned home from a council meeting, police said today.

WIESBADEN, West Germany, Feb 15, (Reuters): Investigators have seized West Germany's largest haul of hashish on a ship arriving from Lebanon, the federal criminal office (BKA) said today.

The BKA said its officers found eight tonnes of the drug stored in 320 wooden containers on a Singapore-registered freighter, the Northstar, when it docked in Hamburg last Thursday. The containers were loaded in the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

Rushdie goes into hiding

(Continued from Page 1)

In an unprecedented statement carried yesterday by the official Iranian news agency, Khomeini said Rushdie "and all those involved in the (book's) publication who (were) aware of its content, are sentenced to death."

A senior Iranian cleric, Hassan Sanei, offered \$1 million reward today to anyone who killed Rushdie, Iranian state television reported.

It quoted Sanei as saying his charity, the Jum Fifth Foundation, would pay the money to "anyone who would punish this mercenary of colonialism for his shameful act."

Elite Revolutionary Guards proclaimed their readiness today to carry out Khomeini's order to kill the author and publishers of The Satanic Verses.

Police were guarding the premises of Rushdie's publishers and his home. But the author did not answer his telephone and it appeared he was not there. Newspapers reported he had gone into hiding with police protection.

Some 10,000 people demonstrated outside Britain's embassy in Tehran today in a protest against Rushdie.

Embassy staff said that some of the demonstrators had thrown stones at the building, causing minor damage.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters he would call in all the ambassadors of Islamic countries and put forward a plan for united action against the novel, which many Muslims consider blasphemous. It would include banning from the Islamic world all books by the publishers, Viking Press, unless they halted publication of the novel and withdrew from sale copies in the shops, he said.

The spokesman also said Pakistan would ask Britain and the United States to halt publication of the novel.

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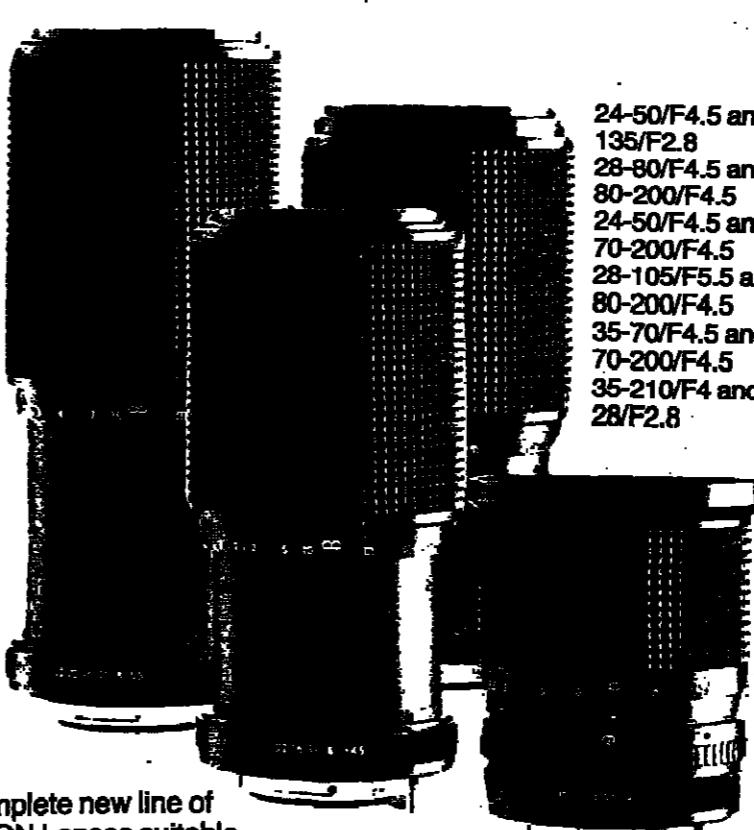
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Co-op Shop No. 12

Two more Recruit executives held

TOKYO, Feb 15. (Reuter): Prosecutors today arrested two more executives of the Recruit group at the heart of a share scandal that has rocked Japanese government and business in recent months. NHK Television reported.

The television said the managing director of the Recruit parent company Shunjiro Mamiya and a director of its subsidiary Recruit Cosmos Seischi Tateoka had been arrested on suspicion of violating the securities law.

The Tokyo prosecutor's office declined to comment on the affair, but said the details as given by the publicly-funded television network were correct.

Kyodo news agency and other television stations reported that a former Labour Ministry official and several other Recruit executives were also being ques-

tioned at the prosecutor's office in connection with the scandal.

Prosecutor's office officials declined to comment on the reports.

Target

There has been widespread speculation that the labour and education ministries would be the next target for investigations into the affair.

The scandal, in which Recruit is accused of handing out lavish gifts and contributions to more than 100 public figures, has already forced three cabinet ministers to resign.

Four people, including the former chairman of Recruit Hiromasa Ezoe and two former executives of Japan's telecommunications giant NTT, were arrested on Monday on suspicion of bribery in the case.

The two former NTT



Shunjiro Mamiya

executives bought shares in the Recruit Cosmos company before they were publicly listed.

NHK reported yesterday that the four had confirmed the share deals, but denied they amounted to bribery.

Selected public figures who bought the Recruit Cosmos shares were able to make huge profits after they were floated in 1986.

The thunder of exploding shells shook the capital and church bells in Christian east Beirut were rung at dawn in

Battle over control of eastern sector

Rival Christians fight in Beirut

BEIRUT, Feb 15. (Reuter): Lebanon's Christian Army troops and hardline Christian militiamen fought each other in the streets of east Beirut today, killing or wounding scores of people, police said.

Casualties from the fighting which had raged through the night lay helpless as artillery and tank fire kept ambulances on the edge of the battles.

Residents cowered in their homes as several buildings blazed unattended with firemen forced to stay clear of the area by the ferocity of the fighting.

Witnesses said troops loyal to Army commander Major-General Michel Aoun and hardline Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen each launched counter offensives to try to wrest control of several residential areas in Christian east Beirut.

Police had no final casualty toll but said scores of people were killed or wounded in the fighting which erupted yesterday evening and raged through the night.

The Sunan Muslim Voice of the Homeland radio said eight LF militiamen had been killed.

Political sources said senior Army, LF, and Christian religious officials made contact during the night in a vain attempt to halt the fighting.

"It is very hard to stop the fighting now. Only God knows what is going to happen," said one political source in east Beirut.

"The fighting is very intense.

protest at the bitter fighting, the heaviest in east Beirut since 1986.

Witnesses said fighting surged through the streets of the residential areas in southern Mater east of the city and along 25 km of coast road linking Beirut to the north.

Casualties

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"It is very hard to stop the fighting now. Only God knows what is going to happen," said one political source in east Beirut.

"The fighting is very intense.

We haven't slept all night. Shelling is coming from all directions. We are hiding in corridors," a resident of east Beirut said by telephone.

Security sources said Army troops with tanks were fighting to gain strategic areas so the military could control east Beirut and the main coastal highway to the north.

But no major territorial gains were reported on the ground where both sides were fighting only metres apart.

"Who is benefitting from these bloody battles? We urge you to stop the fighting before the wound becomes too deep to heal," the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio station said.

Ambush

Witnesses said streets were deserted apart from Army and militia vehicles, hooded gunmen or helmeted troops. Tanks were rumbling down the coastal highway as the Army brought in reinforcements from barracks.

Israelis and Palestinians hold secret meeting

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 15. (Reuter): Israeli parliamentarians and pro-PLO Palestinian leaders have met secretly in Jerusalem, saying it was one of a series to understand Jewish and Arab political positions better.

The seven participants, who included the Labour Party's Haim Ramon, Yair Tsaban of the left-wing Mapam and leading PLO sympathiser Faisal Husseini, refused to discuss their talks.

But they said the meeting was the second of its sort at the Notre Dame Hotel — the exact point of division between Jewish West and Arab East Jerusalem — and would be followed by others.

"I am sure we will see in the near future intensive and more frequent series of meetings between various Israeli important political figures and leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who identify themselves with the PLO," Tsaban told Reuters.

Husseini said: "It was a meeting like others we have done before, and we will go on with such meetings in the future. From my side I think of meeting more and more Israelis and talking to them."

Tsaban said a similar meeting took place in January. "Every such meeting is an exchange of views about the situation, the initiatives, in the international arena," he said.

"It is so delicate and so important for us, we want to contribute, we have tried to keep it secret."

Israel has banned contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but pursued contacts with local Palestinian leaders in an attempt to bypass the PLO, which it considers a terrorist organisation bent on Israel's destruction.

Local pro-PLO Palestinians have been careful in their contacts with Israelis not to appear as if they were negotiating in place of the Tunis-based PLO.

Some of the Israelis and Palestinians who met yesterday have taken part in European Middle East conferences with PLO officials this year.

India ends fight with Union Carbide

NEW DELHI, Feb 15. (Reuter): India's bitter four-year fight with the Union Carbide Corporation ended today with both sides claiming victory in the compensation case for survivors of the Bhopal gas disaster that killed 3,300 people.

A packed Supreme Court heard Chief Justice R.S. Pathak order US-based Union Carbide to pay \$425 million and its Indian subsidiary, Union Carbide India, \$45 million.

The \$470-million payment must be deposited at the office of the Supreme Court registrar by March 23, Pathak said, at the final hearing on the world's worst industrial disaster.

"This settlement shall finally dispose of all past, present and future claims ... All such claims and causes of action, whether within or outside India of Indian citizens ... are hereby extinguished," he said on behalf of a five-judge bench.

Pathak also ordered the quashing of all cases concerning the disaster, caused by a leak of methyl isocyanate from a Union Carbide pesticides plant into Bhopal on Dec 3, 1984.

The decision was accepted

by lawyers at the court, quiet resignation by the Indian plaintiffs and emotions ranging from concern to anger by the survivors in Bhopal. Bhopal is capital of central Madhya Pradesh state.

"It is definitely a victory for

Union Carbide. They got away lightly ... no liability was fixed and that is good for their corporate image, I suppose," said lawyer Seita Vaidyanam.

Union Carbide lawyers appeared to share her views, with one saying the judgement did not consider apportioning blame for the disaster.

The company has always denied liability on the grounds that it neither directly owned nor operated the plant. It has also accused an unnamed employee of the plant of deliberately having caused the disaster. India rejects the charge.

"This was a compromise, a settlement. Liability was not an issue in the end," said Union Carbide lawyer William Krohley.

Krohley's contention was angrily dismissed by India's Attorney-General, K. Parasaran.

"This is not a compromise. It is an order by the Supreme Court,"

Ageing people will strain Third World

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 15. (AP): A population explosion among old people will severely strain society in the Third World because there will be proportionately fewer working people to support them, says a UN report.

"The ageing of populations will proceed more rapidly in the developing regions than it did in the developed ones and will involve large absolute numbers," said the report by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The report predicts a six-fold increase in the number of people over 60 in the period 1950-2025, from 200 million to 1.2 billion, with 71 per cent of them living in the Third World by 2025.

The total population of the world is expected to increase from 5.1 billion in 1988 to 8.46 billion in 2025.

By 2025, the aged will constitute 14 per cent of the world's population, up from eight per cent in 1950.

Meanwhile, across the world, a contracting working population will have to support an expanding non-working one" of children and the elderly, the report said.

Chadli and Khaddafi, who travelled together from Tunis to

Arab Maghreb summit put off by one day

ALGIERS, Feb 15. (Reuter): The five-nation North African summit scheduled to open in the south Moroccan city of Marrakesh today, has been postponed until tomorrow, the official Algerian news agency APS said.

The agency, quoting what it described as an authorised Moroccan source, gave no reason for the delay.

The Algerian agency said the heads of state of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia would hold an informal meeting in Marrakesh today before the actual summit.

The three-day summit is to decide on the shape of a Maghreb union designed as a common market or free trade bloc.

After consultations in Tunis with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Colonel Muammar Khaddafi of Libya, Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali left early today for Marrakesh, the Tunisian news agency TAP said.

The Moroccans say the five leaders are coming to the "constituent summit of the United Arab Maghreb." APS said in a commentary they would sign the "birth certificate of the Grand Arab Maghreb."

The union will group 62 million people from Mauritania's Atlantic coast to Libya's eastern border but it is not yet clear how far they will go towards integration.

Tunisia has prepared a draft treaty for a Maghreb Arab Union but at a preparatory meeting in Tunis last week, ministers differed on the institutions they should set up.

Israel morally weak before Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 15. (Reuter): Right-wing Israeli minister Ariel Sharon said that Israel had become morally weak and remained silent while a Palestinian state was being formed before its very eyes.

In the northern Golan Heights meanwhile Arabs staged an annual strike and marched to protest against Israeli annexation of the strategic plateau in 1981. But the day passed without violence unlike in previous years.

Sharon, a former defence minister now in charge of trade and industry, told right-wing parliamentarians who have formed a caucus called "Front for Eretz Israel":

Reality

"Israel is weak today — not economically, not militarily, she is weak morally — there is no help for it."

He said: "The main problem that I see is that a Palestinian state is being formed before our very eyes with its capital in East Jerusalem. People say I should not say this, that it is not good to

say that Jerusalem is divided.

"I would accept this if I saw a tiny step toward improving the situation, but it is impossible to just sit in silence and accept this as it is."

Sharon masterminded Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon aimed at uprooting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) bases in southern Lebanon, and has strongly criticised Israel's handling of a 14-month Palestinian uprising.

Deputy Army Chief of Staff Major General Ehud Barak denied allegations by two leftist parliamentarians that a secret militia of extremist Jewish settlers was operating against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

"I know of no settlers' militia," participants quoted him as telling parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

The two legislators this week asked Israel's attorney general to investigate what they said was an illegal armed militia among right-wing settlers of the West Bank.

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P.O. Box 26411, Safat, 13125 Kuwait. Al Sour Showroom Tel. 2433902/3, Al Rai Showroom Tel. 4745522 - Car Service Center, Spare Parts Center, Mohammad Bin Al Qasim St. between 4th & 5th Ring Road, Shuwaikh Garage Tel. 4837285/6/7/9

Mubarak may visit Kuwait February 25

KUWAIT, Feb 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today welcomed a planned visit to Kuwait by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"We welcome our brother, President Mubarak at any time," Sheikh Sabah told reporters in reference to a visit here by Mubarak late this month while on his way back from a trip to Japan.

Sheikh Sabah would not specify when the Egyptian President would arrive here, but well-placed sources said Mubarak was due in Kuwait on February 25.

Stage I of Ghazali bridge project opened

STAGE I of the Ghazali bridge project linking the 4th Ring Road in the south up to Shuwaikh port was inaugurated yesterday.

Speaking to a local daily, Riyad Hibooshi, project engineer said that only Stage I presently is operational. Stage II will be operational in a few weeks and a comprehensive project inauguration will follow thereafter.

The bridge is 1,850 metres long and has four ramps tying it to the road network at ground level.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Lieut Col Mustafa Juma of the Public Relations Department at the General Traffic Department and construction engineers and supervisors from the Ministry of Public Works.

Road safety symposium

THE Road Safety Society organised a symposium last Monday under the title: "The Scientific Approach to Raise Public Traffic Awareness", at which the Editor-in-chief of Al Rai Al Aam daily Hamad Jasem Al Saeed and Dr Kafya Ramada of Kuwait University were the main speakers.

Saeed delivered a speech in which he underscored the important role played by the information media in raising public awareness in general and in stepping up public respect for traffic rules.

Contribution

He highlighted the various channels through which the Kuwaiti press could actively contribute to efforts exerted to reduce the number of road accidents.

He stressed the need for sponsoring research in this field to identify various sustained through road accidents and determine scientific requirements for solving this problem.

Dr Kafya Ramada then shed light on the gravity of the traffic problem and its serious repercussions on society in Kuwait, which claim heavy losses in lives and money.

She pointed out that the annual cost of traffic accidents in Kuwait stood at KD123 million and that a total of 331 lives were lost in road accidents on annual basis, according to statistics of 1988.

Accidents

A tragic accident involving two cars which collided in the Al Ahmadi area, resulted in the death of the driver of one of the cars and the death of a passenger in the other. Three persons died in 13 traffic accidents in various parts of the country.

There were a total of 21 road accidents in different governorates during the past 24 hours. Four occurred in the Capital, two in Hawalli, 10 in Ahmadi and five in Jahra.

Egyptian delegation

THE Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, Major General Yousef Bader Al Khorafi yesterday received at his office a delegation of the Egyptian police academy.

The delegation was headed by the director of the academy Major-General Farouq Al Qasas accompanied by the Director of Higher Studies Institute at the Egyptian Academy Major-General Omar Adas the Director-General of the Kuwait Police Academy Col Abdulla Hamza Al Roumi.

Talks centred on matters of mutual interest after which Khorafi presented a memorial shield to the visitors.

Indian examinations

A PRESS release from the Indian embassy in Kuwait states that B.A./B.Com, Part I, II and III supplementary examination of Delhi University will be held at the Indian embassy premises on Feb 20 at 6.30 pm. All candidates registered should report on time.

Arab-Iranian relations will improve: Nawaf

DOHA, Feb 15, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah said today that Arab-Iranian relations will improve in the near future.

Sheikh Nawaf told Qatari 'Al Ray' newspaper that Kuwait is eager to strengthen relations with Iran for the interest of the region.

The defence minister said he hopes Iraq and Iran will reach an agreement in their UN sponsored direct negotiations so that both countries can live peacefully.

Concerning the Kuwaiti policy of armament, Sheikh Nawaf stressed that Kuwait follows the policy of diversifying its arms sources.

Sheikh Nawaf hailed his recent visit to Qatar which came in response to an invitation by Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, adding that it aimed at boosting co-operation between the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

During his visit to Qatar, which was concluded yesterday, Sheikh Nawaf met with the



Sheikh Nawaf

Qatari Amir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani.

Daily 'Al Ray' said that Sheikh Nawaf emphasised the necessity and importance of co-operation between the GCC states to realise more integration between their peoples.

Referring to the recent visit of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to Iraq, Sheikh Nawaf said that the visit resulted in fruitful and positive results.

Higher Planning Council discuss budget deficit

A JOINT meeting of the Ministerial Financial and Economic Committee and the Economic Committee of the Higher Planning Council was held as per directives of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem.

Fuad Mulla Hussein, the secretary-general of the Higher Planning Council said that the meeting was held to discuss ways to solve problems of deficit in the state budget.



An artist explaining a painting to Farouk Al Omar, director of the National Council of Arts and Culture who opened the exhibition.

Freshness of spring at Kuwaiti art exhibition

By Fathima Ahmed

A NEW generation of Kuwaiti artists are attempting to inject bold ideas and take a fresh look at contemporary topics like the freedom of words and deeds and the tumultuous world around them.

There is the freshness of spring in the paintings of the five Kuwaiti artists, aged 20 to 25, that went on show at an exhibition which opened yesterday at the Dahiya Abdullah Al Salem Gallery.

The artists — Ambar Walid, Ali Al Jassem, Rashed Al Qatff, Eisa Al Alban, Nabil Faillachawi and Amal Mohammad Shuaib — are showing their work for the first time.

Themes

Only the water-colours of Ali Al Jassem hold on to history. Jassem plays with the sea and the sand theme, blending the past with the present in his series of paintings detailing the surroundings that are a part of Kuwait's heritage.

The others dabble in contemporary art, fusing abstract, surreal and impressionist styles. Bold ideas and courageous themes are splashed on the canvas in muted colours. Their approach is fresh, pleasing and courageous. Their work contrasts sharply with the other known-names in the art circles of Kuwait.

Jeopardy

Unlike their peers, who used inherent desert gold, brown, beige, red and green, these youngsters use subtle colours — pinks, blues and lilac to talk about contemporary problems. They are more aware of the changing times and discuss topical themes.

Humanity seems to be drowning in despair in the promising work of Eisa Al Alban, a 20-year-old art student. A tidy painting,

Road projects in Kuwait cost nearly KD164 million

AN OFFICIAL source at the Ministry of Public Works confirmed that the roads engineering department at the ministry is keen to follow up the implementation of expressways and main roads in the country.

In an interview with a local daily he said that the road projects cost the ministry nearly KD164 million during the current fiscal year.

In addition to sewage projects and other services at residential areas, the department is currently engaged in several road projects like the Ghazali expressway, Fintas centre roads, the Sixth Ring express roads and a number of new causeways.

The department is also designing road projects at areas which have been recently organised by the municipality.

In a related development, the Chief Engineer of the Health Engineering Department at the

Symbolism

Amber Walid is worried about the tension in the region and shows its vulnerability by symbolically trapping horses trying to break free, with the desert in the background. There is movement and rhythm in Amber's work.

Amal Mohammad Shuaib, a 19-year-old student, talks about Arab women and her role in traditional homes and society. She claims to be the first Kuwaiti artist to experiment with collages, some rather disturbing, which speak of the restricted role of women in Arab society. There is an urge to break free in her works.

In one collage a woman, a symbol often used by Amal, looks away from the world with her lips and brain sewn with clips. Tears, symbolised by sparkling diamonds, fall into a gloved hand.

"The aim of this exhibition is to discover new artists to continue the art culture that has grown over the years in Kuwait," said Abdul Hadi Al Wotayani, director of the fine arts department at the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

"We felt there was a need to encourage upcoming young artists," Wotayani said.

The paintings of Al Alban and Amal will be shown in Germany and other art shows in Europe.

The exhibition, the first for young artists organised by the NCCAL, will become an annual feature of the art scene.

He added that the total child population in the Arab world is 72 million. Statistics show that, on average, only one magazine is issued for every 2,700,000 children.

He drew a comparison between existing Arab press publications and that of the western world, in which the high quality of material supported by the West to journalism and the press. The current press publications in the Arab world barely meet the educational needs of children.

He questioned the subject matter of these publications, stressing the importance of monitoring such publications to ensure that they provide scientific, religious and moral guidance, in line with approved educational standards.

One magazine per 2.7 million Arab children, says official

DR ABDUL Hamid Al Hilali of the Education and Psychology Department at the College of Basic Education, delivered a lecture on the college's premises in Adaliya last Monday, entitled "The Content of Press Directed to Children of the Arab World."

He drew a comparison between existing Arab press publications and that of the western world, in which the high quality of material supported by the West to journalism and the press. The current press publications in the Arab world barely meet the educational needs of children.

He added that the total child population in the Arab world is 72 million. Statistics show that, on average, only one magazine is issued for every 2,700,000 children.

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EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Young Artists Exhibition

UNTIL Feb 23: An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Kuwaiti artists in Kuwait will be held at the Dabiyat Abdullah Al Salem gallery. It will be open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum

DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm.

Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House

SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

CINEMA

French Film Festival

Feb 18: Elsa Elsa (1985), directed by Didier Haudepin; 80 minutes; closes the French film festival, jointly organised by the French Cultural Centre and the Kuwait Centre. It will be shown at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium at 7.30 pm. Children not admitted.

British Council

FEB 18/19 - 6.30 pm: This month's feature film is "Unsuitable Job for a Woman," an off-beat detective story starring Pippa Guard as Cordelia Gray who takes over a detective agency after the death of her boss. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 251512/253204/253227.

MUSIC

Soul to Soul

FEB 17: A performance of Soul to Soul concert will take place at the Kuwait International Hotel, Ballroom.

FEB 22: Pianist Anthony Peebles will give a recital at 8 pm at the Ternate Room. For details of both events contact the hotel.

French Music Concert: FEB 20: French pianist Roselyne Masse-Lecocq and soprano Francoise Carre will present a selection of classical and contemporary music at a concert at the Meridien Hotel. Tickets available at Meridien Hotel, Business Centre, Voltaire Institute and French Cultural Centre.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait

Al Alamiya Pharmacy Jandol Bldg., Fahad Al Salem St.

Al Mutawa Pharmacy Awkaif Bldg., Hilal St. Hawalli and Nuga

Al Nasser Pharmacy Tunis St.

Salimya and Rumaiya

Al Fida Pharmacy Jarallah Bldg., Khansa St.

Fahsheel and Ahmadi

Al Adil Pharmacy Awadi Bldg., Dabbous St.

F heel

Khaitan

Al Tawfiq Pharmacy Rajan Comm. Centre, South St.

Al Noor Pharmacy Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

FRIDAY

Kuwait

Al Hafez Pharmacy Souq Wafeq, Salal Al Din St.

Al Kawther Pharmacy Abdullah Al Mubarak St.

Hawalli and Nuga

Al Firdous Pharmacy Beirut St.

Fahsheel and Ahmadi

Al Khalid Pharmacy Mijahim St.

Khaitan

Al Hayat Pharmacy Al Muzaini Bldg., Ibn Zuhair St.

Jahra

Al Zahra Pharmacy New commercial market

Salimya and Rumaiya

Al Mada'in Pharmacy Mishari Al Khalid Bldg., Baghdad St.

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.06 am

Zehr 12.02 pm

Asr 3.14 pm

Maghreb 5.38 pm

Isha 6.56 pm

FRIDAY

Fajr 5.05 am

Friday Prayer 12.02 pm

Asr 3.14 pm

Maghreb 5.39 pm

Isha 6.57 pm

EXHIBITIONS

Children's Books of the Year '88

FEB 16: Today is the last day of the British books for children exhibition at the British Council, Mansouriya.

A story-telling session by a professional story-teller will be held on Thursday from 9.30 - 10.30 am for children - aged seven to 10; (11-12 noon) stories for children aged three to six.

Islamic Coins in Sweden

FEB 18 - 23: An exhibition of Islamic Coins in Sweden will be held at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiya (Islamic Arts Museum). It will be open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm.

Arabian Gulf St.

DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm.

Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

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Sadu House

SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

LECTURES

Vikings and Arabs

A series of lectures will be given by a visiting Swedish-Arabist Professor Bengt Knutsson. The programme is as follows:

FEB 18 (6.30 pm): A lecture in Arabic on "Early Relations between the Vikings and the Arabs One Thousand Years Ago," at the National Museum.

FEB 19 (6 pm): Lecture on Swedish Arab Relations Over the Centuries, at the Faculty Members Club, Kuwait University, Shuaikha.

FEB 20 (6 pm): A talk on Arabic and Islamic Studies at Swedish Universities, Faculty Members Club.

FEB 21 (6 pm): A lecture on Swedish-Arabic Encounter and Poetry, Faculty Members Club.

FEB 22 (6 pm): A recital of Swedish poetry translated into Arabic will be held at the Kuwait Writers Association, Adelya.

SOCIAL

KAPILKU

FEB 17 Friday: KAPILKU will hold an officers meeting at 5.30 pm, Holiday Inn. Topics to be discussed include 1989 mini-Olympics; KAPILKU night; masquerade ball and other items.

MARCH 10: The association will hold KAPILKU night at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Andalus Club, from 5 to 10 pm. A sing-alike contest and a singing competition will be held. Entrance - KD2. For details call Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4843447.

Charity Bazaar

FEB 18: The Kuwait Society for the Handicapped will hold a charity bazaar at its premises, behind Andalus Cinema, Cairo Street. All proceeds will go to the care of the disabled children in Kuwait. It will be open, during working hours, for a week at the society's premises.

Flying Arrows

FEB 16: The Flying Arrows Sporting Centre will celebrate 75/739.

Bangladeshi competition winners announced

is 10th anniversary/Valentines Day at the SAS Tent. Music will be by the Stepping Stones and Perfect Strangers bands. For details contact 2432791/5721828.

Kuwait Rondeles

FEB 16: The Kuwait Rondeles Grand Ball '89 will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact Tel: 5337597.

Goan Show

FEB 17: The Goan community will celebrate the Nehru Centenary at the IAC. Three one-act plays will be staged: (1) Bebie and Dodal, an English play; (2) Bad Luck by N.G.O.A. and (3) On Credit by the Goan Cultural Society, both plays in Konkani. Music will be by Cajetan/Marcus/Xavier. For details phone 244983, 2413348.

Bangladesh Association

FEB 23: The association will hold a discussion followed by a cultural programme to mark the Martyr's Day (Shahed Dibosh) at the Bangladesh embassy premises in Jabiya. All Bangladeshis are invited.

Indian Dance Show

FEB 23 (6.30 pm): A well-known Indian classical dancer Dr Padma Subramanyam will give a Bharata Natya (dance) recital.

FEB 24 (6 pm):

Dr Padma will give a solo-recital called "Jaya Moksham," danced to Tchaikovsky's music. The dance show is part of the Nehru Centenary celebration. Both performances will be held at the IAC, Funaitas. For entry passes contact 3904817.

Gayathri Arts

FEB 25: 10 - 5 pm. The Gayathri Arts organisation for arts and sports will hold a social event to celebrate the Nehru Centenary. Indoor games and competition will be held at the Indian embassy hall.

KALPAK

MARCH 3: The Kerala Art and Literature Promoting Association in Kuwait (KALPAK) will hold a variety show to launch their activities. The programme will be held at the Indian embassy hall from 4.30 pm.

Kuwait Welsh Society

MARCH 1 (Wednesday): St David's Day buffet-dance will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel at 8 pm. Tickets - KD6. For reservations phone 3713467.

Gala Dinner

MARCH 9: The Great Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For details call 4831339/5393151.

British Tea Party

MARCH 10: The British Tea Party/animal fun day will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel from midday with fun stalls, animal-painting competition, children's super-star contest, soccer and basketball, Leo's magic and other events.

Flying Arrows: The Flying Arrows Sporting Centre will celebrate 75/739.

The children who took part in the Martyr's Day competitions are pictured with the judges.

Bin Mohiuddin and Farhana Haque (5-10 years); Rizwana Rahman, Golam Farhad and Sadia Alam (11-16 years).

The winners of the essay

writing competition were

Mohibul Haque, Shahriar and Sadia Alam.

The prize distribution

ceremony will be held at the

Martyr's Day function on Feb 23 at the Bangladesh embassy.

The first prize winners will be

asked to take part in the

function.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus

Soul to Soul

(Music concert)

Al Salimya

Arabic play

Al Hamra

Youn, Mir Youn Helu

(Arabic)

Starring: Faten Hamama,

Mohammad Munir

Drive-In

Ya Azizi ... (Arabic)

Starring: Laila Alwi, Saeed

Saleh, Osama Abbas

Al Firdous

Joshilay (Hindi)

Starring: Anil Kapoor,

Sridevi, Sunny Deol, Meenakshi

Fahsheel Open-Air

Kanoon ke Dushman

(Hindi)

Al Fahsheel

Humki (Bengali)

Al Jeeb

Kabz (Hindi)

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NEVER give in, never, never, never, never — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

OPINION

Moving towards the right direction

BAGHDAD as well as Marrakesh are currently witnessing the beginnings of Arab glories.

In Baghdad, a meeting of four Arab countries, surrounded by Arab national slogans so truly loved by the Arab people, is being held.

One can easily realise that the present slogans differ greatly from the incoherent slogans that had been very abundant in the past in the Arab world. This was a period when talks on Arab unity were full of tension and even fighting.

The same applies to the meeting of the Arab Maghreb countries in Marrakesh. These are truly very important and historic meetings. The Arab performance as a whole has dramatically changed as many new channels of co-operation have been opened between Arab capitals.

Given that the number of these channels was big and they were not properly utilised — the path through which such co-operation passed during the '60s and until the mid '70s, was totally wrong. It was simply unrealistic and did not serve national interests.

Those who closely followed the slogans at the meeting of the four Arab countries in Baghdad would certainly have found it very logical and reasonable — specially in its objectivity in achieving goals.

Some of the leaders meeting in Baghdad, have passed through dangerous periods and thus are truly experienced in realising their national interests.

King Hussein lived a very long time confronting those who thought that meat can be cooked on the sun's heat and that mountains can be moved by horns of goats. For a long period, he passed through difficult times till the Arab world beyond doubt that his national cause was true and original.

The same applies to the Iraqi president, who after achieving stability of his nation started implementing his ambitious development programme but was taken aback by the war which continued for eight long years. But he came out of the war with his head high thus proving that he is a man who knows exactly what he says and what he wants.

Thus, the Baghdad meeting is the gathering of men who were moulded by their experience of difficult situations.

Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak is a man of peace, who overcame the stupidity of Arab politics which saw personal relations more important than national interests. He is the man who reopened the Arab gate for Egypt and entered through it after the failure of many who tried to cast suspicions over his patriotism and his country's nationalism.

The President of North Yemen, completing the four leaders, was the one who brought back happiness to North Yemen. The meeting of the four will add happiness to the happiness of Arabs in Marrakesh — this is where the man of North Africa, King Hassan succeeded in bringing together the Arabs.

After the improvement of the performance of its leaders, the Arab world is steadily moving towards the right direction and channels of co-operation, perhaps the most important of which is economic co-operation. The unification of economic interests, is the first step towards achieving political interests.

This is exactly what is desired from the Baghdad and Marrakesh meetings.

It must be remembered that the Arab world is fed up of only talking about unity through the songs of the late Umm Qulthum.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Pilots should be brought down to earth

SIR: According to an Air-India official AI Flight 978 on Jan 27, '82, was delayed due to the pilot's illness, when in fact it was due to a pilot's strike.

A large number of passengers was going on emergency leave to see their dear ones, who were either seriously ill or on their death bed and the pilot's "supposed illness" seemed to be a joke and added insult to injury. The Air-India ground staff tried their best to console the passengers.

I request the Air-India management to be bold enough firstly, to admit that their crew was on strike and secondly, to take severe disciplinary action against those people who are trying to disrupt the schedule and tarnish the image of Air-India and the Indian community around the world. The crew must be thinking that since they are high fliers, they are on top of the world, but they should be brought down to earth by immediate and appropriate action by the management.

Any dispute between the management and the crew should be solved by negotiations, not by causing inconvenience to the innocent passengers, who are paying "exorbitant rates" for Air-India seats.

We, the passengers expect the crew to behave in a civilised manner. They have a decent job only because the

people choose to fly with them. I hope the crew will change their course of action and spare the passengers from this great misery.

We Indians fly Air-India, not because of the "Maharaja's excellent services" but because we are patriotic. But if the Air-India management does not take any action the tolerant people may soon choose not to be exploited by a selfish uncaring group of high fliers and their management. If the situation continues to deteriorate, people will lose their patience and opt to fly other airlines forever. I expect the Air-India management and the crew to throw some light on the situation and clear the air for a peaceful travel.

Joseph P. Louis,
Safat

Negligent doctors

SIR: My father who had lived in Kuwait for the past 37 years died recently due to a massive heart attack on the way to the Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital, just two minutes drive from his residence.

His death was due to the utter negligence of the doctor who attended him at the Chest Hospital. Five days before his death, he had gone to this hospital

ital complaining of chest pain. As he appeared normal and healthy, they did not admit him. Instead they sent him home saying his ECG was normal and that he should not take salt as his BP was slightly high. Moreover, less than 15 months ago he had a pace-maker fixed.

All over the world it is a normal medical procedure to keep heart patients under observation when they complain of any chest pain. The lives of all patients are precious as my father's. If it weren't for this negligence he would be fit and alive today.

I call upon the medical authorities to see to it that this does not happen to some other unfortunate man as heart disease is one of the main causes of death in the Gulf.

Princess Ramesh
Safat

Inaccurate reporting

SIR: We are grateful to the Arab Times for regularly publishing two Urdu pages for the benefit of the Urdu-speaking people of the sub-continent.

However, we have noted with regret that for the last several months, the standard of the Urdu section has been deteriorating and people have started to dislike it. They feel that the Urdu section is used for the propaganda of Pakistan People's Party.

SIR: It is quite absurd for Rukhsana Dadarkar to say Keralites are favoured at Indian schools in Kuwait (AT, Jan 26-27). Indian schools select teachers purely on merit, qualifications, training and experience. According to the criteria, Malayalees come at the top because of their high

literacy IQ. Till recently, All Indian Civil Service was monopolised by them, apart from other key posts everywhere. It is ridiculous to say that in sports Malayalees are behind. P.T. Usha and many others have shown where Malayalees stand.

Malayalees put their investment and efforts to establish Indian schools in Kuwait. Now their representation in the school boards is almost nil. All the schools are controlled by north Indians, while students comprise mainly from South India. It is absolutely wrong to state that under such circumstances Malayalees are favoured.

Malayalee teachers are generally considered to be among the best, because of their flair and skill. For this reason many departments in Indian universities are headed by Malayalees.

K. Vishwanath,
(Address supplied)

Selected on merit

SIR: I refer to Michael Conden's remark on my letter "Unholy cow" (AT, Feb 2-3).

Conden says that the people should have the "willingness to participate, and to resolve the questions raised by a script." After reading the play "The Great Celestial Cow" nearly four times, I found only one question being raised by the script — "Why has this filth

been written about ladies by a member of their own sex, Sue Townsend?

Those who have seen the play or read its script know it contains nothing but filth. Freedom of speech and action doesn't give Conden and Townsend the right to ridicule, insult and degrade a lady, whatever the nationality, with filthy language and lecherous actions.

I definitely don't like the work of Sue Townsend and I know that I am not being a helpful guide to the would-be participants. As a concerned member of an educated society, I would not like any simple lady to fall into this trap.

Dr Rakesh Asthana,
Hawaii

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Sixth and final part of the study on the changing face of China

Life appears serene for ethnic groups

By Ann Scott Tyson

BOLUO, China: At midnight, as the moon casts silver images on the shores of this quiet fishing village, aged Bai women in black tunics gather to chant Buddhist hymns and lighten their hearts of worldly suffering.

Huddled in a half circle, the women rap carved mayu (wooden fish) and shake bells in a delicate rhythm as they lift frail voices to Guanyin, the bodhisattva of compassion.

Guanyin's ears hear no thunder, his eyes see not the world of mortals. His only desire is to read the scriptures ... the Bai lyrics rise faintly over the placid Erhai Lake and into the starlit night. "In our hearts, we have a lot of feelings," confided one chantress, wearing the dark blue headdress of elderly Bai women. "But after we tell them to the bodhisattva, we are blessed, and our hearts are less burdened."

Fishing, farming and worshiping among the clear lakes, emerald valleys, and red-earthed highlands of western Yunnan Province, life today appears serene for the survival of fragile minority cultures: the lure of modern, urban society.

Identity

The lives and heritage of Bai villagers in the lakeside hamlet of Boluo reveal how many of China's smaller minority groups are gradually losing their ethnic identity.

In ancient times, the Bai's ancestors, of Tibeto-Burman stock, established communities based on hunting, fishing, and primitive agriculture in the region of present-day Yunnan, which borders Laos, Burma and Vietnam.

Like the Tibetans, Mongols, and other peoples living on the edge of Chinese civilisation, these early Bais battled for centuries against domination by ethnic Chinese, or Hans, who



A Bai couple, members of one of China's 55 minority groups, go to market in Yunnan province.

expanded their domain outward from the Yellow River Valley.

For more than 1,000 years beginning in the 2nd century A.D., Yunnan was free of Chinese control. From the 8th to 12th centuries, the Bais formed two powerful kingdoms, the Nan Zhao, or southern principality, and the Dali, more than once repelling armies of the Tang Dynasty.

But in the mid-13th century, imperial troops succeeded in decimating the Bai nobility and annexing Yunnan to Chinese territory. The migration of Han settlers began implanting Chinese culture among Yunnan's "barbarians," as Hans called other ethnic groups.

Wang Zhanhui, a Bai grand-

father, recalled childhood memories of fighting in the 1930s between Han farmer immigrants who settled land above Boluo village, and the Bai fisherman who lived on the lake's edge.

Superior

"The Hans felt superior to Bai people. They said we had no culture," Wang said. Fearing worse discrimination, Bai men doffed their colourful tunics and white turbans for drab Mao suits, he said, and some posed as Hans when registering under the new regime. Today, Boluo's population of 2,700 is only 20 per cent Bai, according to local officials.

Along with Han immigrants came a cadre of zealous communist officials with orders to eradicate "feudal superstitions"

among the Bais. Almost immediately, the officials banned local Buddhist rituals, drama, and chanting ceremonies.

In 1958, as Mao's collectivization drive reached a peak, the village's production brigade turned Boluo's graceful Buddhist temple into a grain warehouse and meat hall. The huge metal drum that villagers once beat each morning to summon Buddha to breakfast was stripped of its skin head and used to steam rice.

The struggle here was fierce," said Zhao Muqiao, keeper of the Buddhist temple. He said Han radicals strung Bai up by their hands, beat them, and forced them to kneel on broken shells from the lake as the campaign fired ethnic hostility.

"Hans had great scorn for Bai," said Wang's son, Jiabie.

Since China's post-Mao leadership restored order and eased the repression of minorities a decade ago, life in Boluo has regained a semblance of days past.

Nimbly weaving fishing nets on the shady porch of a lakeside home, wizened Bai women chat in lively voices about Buddhist rituals, how to handle ghosts, and the proper marriage ceremony. "On days set by the moon, we put on new clothes and carry bowls of food to the temple for Guanyin," said one woman. Her bamboo needle flying to and fro. "Then we beat drums and chant on into the night."

The Christian Science Monitor

Twin governments cause problems, but war-weary Lebanese adapt

EDUCATION Ministry official Sami Hamadi said the authorities decided not to issue certificates for students in either west or east Beirut "until the government is reunited."

Even getting in and out of Lebanon has become a problem for some people.

"Airport officials turned me back when they saw my passport was renewed in east Beirut," said Anis Saeed, a Christian, when he tried to leave through the airport in Muslim west Beirut.

Refund

"I got my ticket refunded and now I'm going to take the ferry to Cyprus from the Christian port of Jounieh," said Saeed, 24.

The Lebanese have learned how to survive under the most arduous conditions during the civil war, Israel's 1982 invasion and endless factional feuding. But the dividing of what had passed for their government has exacerbated many.

"We're fed up. We want this chaos to end. However, if formal partitioning would lead to security, stability and better living conditions, let it be," said Amal Hamdi, 28, a Muslim secretary in west Beirut.

Rana Shehab's dreams of going to London to study medicine were shattered when the Education Ministry refused to issue her high school graduation certificate.

Going to London's impossible now," said Shehab, an 18-year-old Muslim. "The only alternative was to enrol in the American University of Beirut."

The AUB, which used to be the most prestigious education centre in the Middle East, is now a shadow of what it once was after its foreign professors were frightened off by a wave of kidnappings of its American and British lecturers and administrators.

Most foreign governments have sat on the fence, maintain-

ing contacts with both Aoun and Hoss, hoping that the crisis will be resolved soon. But there seems little prospect of that.

A special Arab League Committee formed to mediate in the crisis has so far failed to get Aoun, who is backed by Iraq, and Hoss, supported by Syria, to compromise.

Ghassan Bitar, a Christian municipal employee, said he and his colleagues have not been paid since September.

Bitar, 32, who has two children and a wife five months pregnant, said he had to turn his family Mercedes-Benz into a taxi to make ends meet.

"I'm managing, thank God. I can't leave my family hungry," he said.

Shattered

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But Shehab noted: "It's better than nothing."

Every ministry now has two competing heads. The 40,000-man Army, the police and mun-

icipal departments are split down the middle, with both splinters answerable to authorities appointed by the rival governments.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1666 — Holland signs treaty of alliance with Great Elector of Brandenburg.

1804 — Force of US Marines slips into Tripoli harbour and burns US Navy frigate Philadelphia which had been captured by pirates.

1808 — France invades Spain.

1871 — Franco-Prussian war ends in defeat for France.

1873 — Republic is proclaimed in Spain.

1918 — England's port of Dover is bombed by German submarine in World War I.

1933 — Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia, fearing German threats, reorganize Little Entente with permanent council.

1942 — German submarines fire upon oil refineries in Aruba, Dutch West Indies, during World War II.

1945 — Massive US air raids on Tokyo begin in World War II.

1953 — South Africa institutes emergency powers under public safety bill.

1959 — Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba.

1962 — Anti-government riots break out in Georgetown, British Guiana.

ENTERTAINMENT

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16-17, 1989

Special to the Arab Times

Fade out scene for serious cinema buffs

Bombay stars hog limelight at film festival

NEW DELHI'S huge Siri Fort was the venue for a world 'Film Mela' held in the Indian capital recently. Some 300 films from various countries including India were screened over a fifteen-day period. Unlike previous film festivals, this was a non-competitive affair, as the Peacock Awards have been discarded.

This proved quite a blessing as there were no mediocre films to go through, and the main section 'Cinema of the world' had over a hundred films, out of which a quarter were award-winning marvels, already acclaimed at other leading festivals.

There were retrospectives of three foreign directors and one of India's Raj Kapoor. The section of early pioneers featured the silent film masterpieces of Fritz Lang. Then there were separately highlighted features, like Black American films, a focus on China and foreign documentaries, apart from Indian short films. In addition there was the Indian panorama of selected Indian features, and even the commercial filmfests had their say with a mainstream section, with films like *Tezaab* or *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*.

Right from the start, the festival had its share of sensations, disputes, tugs-of-war pulling in opposite directions. The serious cinema buffs wanted to make it their own kind of world event. But the boisterous Bombay film people, led by the pushy G.P. Sippy, were out to steal the limelight. It seems the Information Ministry was also in favour: Dozens of unconfirmed air tickets were sent out to Bombay, but surely nobody could expect a Dilip Kumar or a Rekha to be on a waiting list. Thus the N.F.D.C. with the aim of promoting better cinema, got down to approving all the star seats.

The result was that the inauguration of the fete at the big Siri Fort theatre turned into a star parade and the foreign delegates as well as Indian directors faded into the background.

Some days earlier, it was decided him of a Bappi Lahiri variety show. She had come to lead the brainwave of a massive publicity stunt for herself. The noble cause was that of Sufi Hashmi, a theatre activist who had been killed ten days earlier in a political scuffle, while staging an anti-government street play. But Shabana turned it into a cause for her own self advancement, seeing the number of glamorous stars who were attending, and who surely would steal the limelight from her.

Presented

When she was formally presented on the stage, she turned a cultural platform into a political one and read out a protest note about Hashmi. Kabir Bedi, the compere, then had to ask if anybody wanted to reply, whereupon the Information Minister, H.K.L. Bhagat himself walked up and answered angrily.

Meanwhile, Shabana had achieved her purpose. The papers next day were full of headlines and photos of Shabana, putting all the other stars in the shade.

Her English film *Madame Souzatska* directed by John Schlesinger was also the opening movie, though she has hardly a few scenes, playing an Indian character in London, which is more of a caricature, as a young director put it.

One could well ask what Shabana had done for Hashmi immediately after his murder? Why did she not take some steps in Bombay? Why did she not just make a silent protest, as Dilip Kumar and Saira Banu did? Why did she attend the minister's 5-star dinner after the inauguration and other parties as well? Instead, she plagiarised Marlon

Madhuri Dixit, heroine of *Tezaab* is interviewed.

Brando's protest at the Oscar ceremony some years ago.

Anyhow, part of the glamour was stolen by Dimple, who brought the auspicious lamp on the stage. Other stars gave brief witty answers to compete Kabir Bedi but only Anupam Kher complained as why he was only allowed to say hello. Rekha spoke rather poorly and Amitabh remained absent throughout the festival.

The stars also shone at the minister's dinner, having left Shabana's British film halfway for the party. Next day again, there were a chain of inaugurations. The Indian panorama was flagged off by Basu Chatterjee and Adoor Gopalakrishnan, with the screening of *Trishagni*, a poor film with unnecessary nudity. The R.K. retro brought forth Shashi and Randhir Kapoor, the *chacha* and *bhanta* fighting among themselves. Shashi announced that Randhir was invited to speak on behalf of the R.K. family although he was the senior representative. Then why had he been asked? Randhir did not exchange a single word with Shashi. Krishna Kapoor was absent, even from this official honour to 14 films of her husband, Raj Kapoor.

The anti-climax came with the opening of the minister's commercially section, to a packed

Ramesh Sharma, Mani Kaul, etc. Stalwarts like Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen could not attend even for a few days.

Navin Choudhry, the young actor of *Madame Souzatska* was hounded by the media. But he proved very shy. Shabana complained as why he was sought after by Bombay producers who wanted to create another *Aamir Khan*.

Khan. This proved to be a bluff, as no producer bothered about him, not even O.P. Rayhan. And Navin himself declared that he had no desire to pursue acting.

The French film *Bengali Night* shot in Calcutta and shown in the fete caused another cross-culture shock and led to heated fights. It stars Supriya Pathak, Shabana Azmi and Soumitra Chatterjee with French actors.

Earlier during its shooting, an aged lady-novelist of Calcutta, Maitree Devi, had raised objections and even filed a case against it, pleading that it was based on some incidents of real life, forty years ago, when a foreigner had stayed at their house and there were rumours of an affair between them. The film was based on the foreigner's novel, while Maitree Devi's own version in her novel was ignored. It was a romantic and touching film nevertheless.

Calcutta City has been degraded a lot in the film, being called a hell and so on. And at one place, the French hero angrily calls the poet Tagore "an old pig." Naturally, Bengalis in Delhi, began a protest against it. However, the film stands no

commercial chance in India. Supriya is a bad choice, as she looks aged and aggressive rather than tender. She also has no rating as a star. Shabana plays the elderly role of her mother and looks too stiff. The atmosphere is well captured but the alien look prevails, as in *Mira Nair's Salam Bombay*.

The festival's film market was another big flop.

Many producers wound up their stalls within a few days. The Malaysian epic *1921* was shown without sub-titles. So who would buy it?

The only deals were those of Indians buying the quota of films allowed to be imported by them.

They were mostly Korean or other sex films. What then is the tangible gain of such a costly festival? Is it only to show hundreds of films to a few thousand people? There too, there were too many sections and films and so many theatres were deserted empty look.

The main rush was for the erotic or "hot" films. People frantically inquired which films had such stuff. Some openly confessed that their interest in the fete lay only in explicit scenes, either love-making or rape.



A glamorous Dimple and Rekha at the Indian film festival inauguration held at Siri Fort in New Delhi.

These films attracted record audiences, with stormy scenes gained an entry remains one of the many mysteries of the 12th International Film Festival of India, which ended with the screening of an ordinary French film.

Perhaps it was to give a start to the Festival of France in India, beginning from February for one whole year, by which time India will have the next film festival, in January 1990, in Calcutta.

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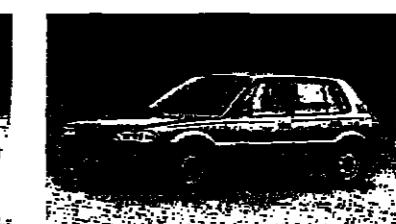
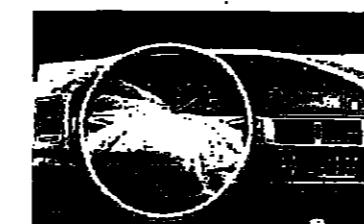
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TOYOTA



A portrait of Shashi Kapoor speaking about his brother Raj.

HUMOUR

THE President has a new car. He rode in it just after his swearing-in on Inauguration day. News commentators gushed over its capabilities. As I understand it, the custom-built limousine is bullet-proof, dust-proof, has tilted seats, a smoke producer, a loudspeaker, a bar, a large-screen television, a kitchen (capable of cooking a meal for 40), a Jacuzzi, a steam room and a squash court.

What frightens me the most about this car is something Dan Rather said. He mentioned that the limo, and I am not making this up, was constructed in such a way that the President could conduct a nuclear war from it.

If true, this is very worrying.

I can just imagine the scene where the car salesman briefs the President on the features of his new automobile.

"Now, Mr President, this button here controls the temperature, this one opens up the roof, this is the light dimmer and this one launches every ICBM in our stockpile."

"I see. Let me get it straight — this button opens the roof."

"No, sir, that's the

The Art Buchwald Column

A new limo

temperature gauge. The one that operates the roof is next to it."

"I see. Then this button dims the lights."

"No, that one launches the nuclear missiles. The light dimmer is over here."

"Why can't the nuclear button be separated from the others so I don't get them mixed up?"

"That would have added to the cost of the car, and the budget planners felt that since you would be using the nuclear button so seldom, it wasn't worth the money."

"What's this button for?"

"With that you can either start a conventional war or roll down your windows."

"Do you think that's the best place for it since my grandchildren may be riding in the car?"

"If we put it higher, it could get confused with the stereo buttons. There was some talk of installing it in

the glove compartment, but then it would be hard to reach from the back seat."

"I am pleased to have such deterrent capability in my car, but what kind of signal are we sending the Soviet Union when half the controls in the back can start a war?"

"It was the CIA's idea. They told us that Gorbachev's limo has been equipped with four SS20s on the exhaust pipe, and that they are aimed directly at the United States."

"Well, all right. How do I receive the signal to launch my nuclear weapons?"

"It will come over this country music station. We're assuming that you will be listening to country music whenever you are being driven to and from the White House. As soon as you hear the announcer say 'a kinder, gentler mushroom cloud,' you'll be pushing the button."

"This one?"



"No, sir. That button is to defrost the rear window."

"I'll get it right. What happens if I push this one over here?"

"That turns on the car's flame thrower in case you're caught in a traffic gridlock."

"You people have thought of everything. I imagine that this button must be important."

"It could be the most important one in the car. It activates the radar detector and warns you about every speed trap the police have set up on any highway in the United States."

1989, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

LOGIC IN WHAT YOU LEAD

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ A Q 8 4

♦ A Q J

♦ 5 3

♦ K J 7 2

WEST

♦ K 10 3

♦ 9 7 5

♦ A K 8 4 2

♦ 6 4

EAST

♦ Void

♦ 6 4 3 2

♦ Q 10 9 7 6

♦ 9 8 5 3

SOUTH

♦ J 9 7 6 5 2

♦ K 10 8

♦ J

♦ A Q 10

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Bridge is a logical game. If you

know what the problem is, more

than likely you can work out the

right answer.

When North could jump raise

spades. South fell in love with his

hand. His three honors in partner's

suit assured a double fit, and with

first or second-round control of ev-

ery side suit, he knew that there

were no two fast losers in any suit.

He settled for a small slam when he

learned an ace was missing.

West cashed the king of dia-

monds and followed with the ace, ruffed by declarer. All South had to

spade a trump.

Opening lead: King of ♠

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He settled for a small slam when he

learned an ace was missing.

West cashed the king of dia-

monds and followed with the ace, ruffed by declarer. All South had to

spade a trump.

Opening lead: King of ♠

Bridge is a logical game. If you

know what the problem is, more

than likely you can work out the

right answer.

When North could jump raise

spades. South fell in love with his

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Japanese stock market turned in a splendid performance in '88

Economic activity expected to cruise along: economist

By M.C. Bose

A JAPANESE economist has said the 1989 economic activity is expected to cruise along, continuing its long expansion and keeping equipment investment demand at a relatively stable pace.

He added that since interest rates are now at historic lows, apprehensions over an interest boost may rise at some point, as in 1988.

The Japanese stock market turned in a splendid performance last year, rising by 42 per cent. The fundamental reason for this strong performance is the robust Japanese economy, the economist said.

Noriyuki Suzuki, general manager, international business department of Yamaichi Securities Co., told the investors conference in Kuwait yesterday that significantly the tax-related act which passed the House of Councillors session on Dec 24 last year is scheduled to come into effect on April 1, 1989.

Reduction

to be offset by favourable influences. He said that on an individual basis, some sectors will benefit greatly while others will not, and such diversity is certain to affect the securities market.

Suzuki said that the introduction of a three per cent consumption tax clearly demonstrates the impact that will be felt by certain sectors. When it is implemented, the existing commodity tax will be abolished, which will most greatly benefit the automobile and home electric appliance industries.

Although the consumption tax will be levied on the shipment price while the commodity tax is levied on the delivery price, the difference between the two taxation rates is large, and represents the degree to which the total taxation rate will drop.

Reduction

Tax on cars will fall 50 per cent during the first three-year period when the temporary tax of six per cent will be applied, and a sharp 69 per cent reduction is estimated when the final three per cent tax is adopted.

As a result, an average 10 per cent reduction will become possible, which is likely to stimulate demand. The commodity tax of 20 per cent on air conditioners, large refrigerators and large televisions will also be replaced by a consumption tax of only three per cent.

Income taxes and residential

taxes will be simplified. There are currently six income tax brackets ranging from 10 to 60 per cent, and seven residential tax brackets ranging from five to 16 per cent. The system will be modified to include five income tax brackets ranging from 10 to 50 per cent and only three residential tax brackets of 5, 10 and 15 per cent. Obviously, the disposable income of the rich will increase.

Enhancement

He said that Japan has also turned its attention towards the rapid enhancement of the social infrastructure. Although Japan has caught up to some extent with other advanced countries in terms of wealth, its infrastructure and public amenities lag considerably behind, to the growing dissatisfaction of the Japanese people. At the same time, the recent strong economy has increased tax income more than expected and the fiscal deficit is expected to improve to a level of approximately one per cent of nominal GNP.

A change in corporate spirit is yet another notable point. Companies are much less hesitant to diversify and are already engaged in aggressive restructuring in order to launch new areas of business.

At the same time, progressive internationalisation has made it impossible to shift manufacturing units to countries where low cost labour and high profitability are available, thus maintaining



Noriyuki Suzuki (centre) pictured with other participants.

international competitiveness without trade conflicts.

The government bond market is expected to exhibit a strong undertone in 1989. This trend will be supported by a continuation of yen appreciation and a tight supply and demand situation for bonds.

In order to avert a slump in the value of the US dollar, the Bank of Japan will be forced to lead short-term interest rates lower. While a brief market decline is anticipated as a result of yen depreciation and other factors, the extremely large redemption amount of government bonds

and the decline of new issuance will exert a favourable influence on the supply and demand situation. This will lead to buying on decline and prevent any major slump in the market.

The US monetary policy of tight credit is currently in its last stages and long-term interest rate trends are in the process of reversing direction. As the slowdown in economic growth becomes more obvious, concern over inflation will tend to fade. Short and long-term interest rates should decline and the bond market is expected to firm.

Because European exchange

rates are projected to be more stable than the US dollar and yields in the European bond market will exceed those in Japan. Demand from Japanese investors will be substantial. Therefore, the European bond market is expected to be generally firm.

The US economy has been expanding again since October last year. However, due to the Federal Reserve Board's tight monetary policy, long-term interest rates in the bond market have reversed direction and the economy is approaching a very delicate stage.

World Business Summary

Turkish opposition vows to reverse privatisation

ANKARA, Feb 15. (Reuters): Turkey's main opposition leader Erdal Inonu said yesterday that if his party came to power it would renationalise state companies privatised by Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. "Privatisation is just the government's selling enterprises to foreigners to pay back foreign debts," Inonu told a meeting of the Social Democrat Populist Party in Ankara. "When we take office we will buy back all privatised institutions," said Inonu, whose party narrowly leads Ozal's Motherland Party in opinion polls. Turkey's privatisation programme has been plagued by delays and economic uncertainty. But Ozal's government, whose term ends in 1992, is still preparing more than 40 wholly or partly-owned state companies for sale. Privatisation started last March with the sale of a minority share in the Teletas Communications Company.

\$17.30m IFAD loan for China

ROME, Feb 15. (OPECNA): The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is to extend a \$17.30 million loan to China to help finance a livestock development project. This is the fifth IFAD-initiated project in China, bringing the agency's total lending to over 128.20 million. The project will help diversify agricultural economy in the Sichuan Province by adding intensive grain cultivation in the east and the development of small livestock production in the poorly utilised hill and mountainous areas of the south. China is keen that the benefits of economic growth in the province should be distributed equally. The annual per capita income of the region is 20 per cent below the national average of over \$100.

JOINT OPERATIONS

Kuwait Oil Company (KSC) Getty Oil Company

Getty

Joint Operations (Kuwait Oil Company and Getty Oil Company) announces the Pre-Qualification for:

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(in Partitioned Zone - Wafra area)**

Contractors with previous experience in such

works and wishing to participate in this tender,

are invited to collect the Pre-Qualification

Documents from Contracts Administration Office

of Joint Operations — Wafra, during the official

working hours from 07:00 am to 04:00 pm) not

later than April 2, 1989, against non-refundable fees of KD. 100/-.

Latin America's net transfer of resources climbed to \$29b in '88

WASHINGTON, Feb 15. (UPI): Latin America's net transfer of resources abroad climbed to \$29 billion in 1988 and adds up to almost \$180 billion over the seven years since the debt crisis exploded, a United Nations agency's report said today.

After declining from \$33 billion in 1985 to less than \$17 billion in 1987, the net flow of resources abroad from Latin America and the Caribbean increased strongly in 1988, reaching \$29 billion, said the Washington office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 1988, the outward transfer of resources represented 24 per cent of Latin American and Caribbean exports, compared with 15 per cent in 1987.

Accumulated

The region has been transferring resources abroad for seven consecutive years, for an accumulated total of almost \$180 billion, or 45 per cent of its present external debt of \$401 billion, ECLAC said in a report.

The developing world debt

crisis exploded in 1982 when Mexico was unable to service its commitments.

The accelerating 1988 financial hemorrhage was partly a consequence of larger interest payments, and above all of the sharp reduction in the net inflow of capital to Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC said.

The net inflow of capital contracted in 1988 to a mere \$4 billion, not even a third of the amount received in 1987.

Most of the drop was due to the abrupt turnaround in net capital movements to Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela, which after receiving net loans and investments of more than \$5 billion in 1987, registered a net capital outflow of more than \$3 billion in 1988.

All the other Latin American countries, except Argentina and Colombia, suffered a marked reduction in net external financing. The net inflow of capital to the region was barely enough to cover 13 per cent of the interest payments due, ECLAC said.

But all was not gloom as 1988 witnessed the first absolute drop

GM reports record profits

DETROIT, Feb 15. (Reuters): General Motors Corp reported record net income of \$4.9 billion for 1988, today breaking its previous earnings peak of \$4.5 billion set in 1984.

The largest US car maker said the record profits stemmed from increased volume, improved performance in North America and overseas, and lower fixed manufacturing expenses.

GM chairman Roger Smith said the earnings improvement also resulted from efforts to reduce costs and build better-quality products. Last month he said GM would break its 1984 earnings record.

Estimated
Car industry analysts had estimated the company earned \$4.55 billion to \$4.9 billion in 1988.

GM's per-share income of \$14.34 was in the middle of analysts' expectations. The per-share figure compared with \$10.06 in 1987.

GM said the earnings of its North American operating group increased significantly in 1988 over nominal 1987 profits. It said its overseas operations earned a record \$2.7 billion last year, up from \$1.9 billion in 1987.

Smith said the North American operations, despite their improved performance, were still below GM's desired level of profitability.

"We are committed to our primary goal in North America to profitably raise GM's market share — and that will require continued product innovation, quality improvement, cost reductions and effective marketing programmes," he said.

In 1988 GM's share of the US car market declined to 36.1 per cent from 41.7 per cent in 1987.

Revenues

For the year, GM said revenues rose to \$110.22 billion from \$101.78 billion in 1987.

The 1988 net income included a gain of \$224.2 million from an accounting change.

GM said its fourth-quarter profits rose to \$1.39 billion from \$35.8 million a year earlier. Revenues rose to \$22.84 billion from \$26.37 billion.

Meanwhile, GM announced plans to refurbish its assembly plants in Flint, Michigan and Janesville, Wisconsin, to build new trucks beginning in late 1991.

America's top automaker said the Janesville plant, operated by its Buick-Oldsmobile-Cadillac group, will be refurbished to build a new line of Chevrolet Suburban truck wagon and Chevrolet Blazer/GMC Jimmy sport utility vehicles, to debut for the 1992-model year.

Modernisation

GM's Flint plant, operated by its truck and bus group, will be retrofitted to build a new, as yet unspecified truck product following completion of Suburban and Jimmy/Blazer production at that plant, expected sometime in 1991.

Commercial banks approached by the government to fund the modernisation had asked for a written guarantee signed by the Saudis before they would agree to take part, the analysts said.

Basis

The official said the Reuters story over-interpreted a statement by the Supreme Oil Council that it had discussed the basis for providing the refinery with crude oil from Saudi Arabia.

No startup date was announced

for the new truck model at Flint, although it too is expected to be sometime in 1991, GM said.

Costs of the modernisation

projects at both plants will be

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16-17, 1989

International Bond Highlights

PARIS: The European Investment Bank is launching a 750 min French franc 8-1/4 pct Eurobond, priced at 101.30 pct and maturing on March 10, 1989, lead manager Societe Generale said. Milan, Fiat Finance and Trade, a subsidiary of Fiat SPA, is issuing a 100 billion lire five-year Eurobond with a 12 pct coupon priced at 101-1/2 pct, lead manager Banca Commerciale Italiana said. (XXTP 1101)

Paris: French state airline Air France is to launch a perpetual note issue for between 1.8 billion and 2.0 billion francs, chairman Bernard Albin said. (XXVS 1444)

Venezuela: Cassa di Risparmio delle Province Lombarde Hong Kong branch, is issuing a 60 min Eurobond due March 16, 1999, through the Central Leasing Trust Corp, lead manager BII International Ltd said. (XXWD 1506)

Berne: The Swiss Life Assurance Trust Corp, lead manager BII International Ltd said. (XXWD 1506)

London: Nichi Co. Ltd has cut the coupon on its 500 min dlrs, four year, equity warrant Eurobond to 4-1/8 pct from an indicated 4-1/2 pct. Nomura International said. (XXSE 1012)

Manila: The Philippines and the International Monetary Fund expect to agree on an economic adjustment programme in two weeks, central bank governor Jose Fernandez said. (KLHX 0855)

Amsterdam: The Dutch Finance Ministry said it plans to issue a seven pct 10-year bullet loan and has invited subscriptions at tender. The amount and the issue price of the loan will be set on Feb 21. (KLHV 0852)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 12-15/16 13/16	13-1/12-15/16	13-1/12-15/16
FFT 6.05/15	5.85/95	6.55/65
PAR 8-3/4 7/8	8-13/16 15/16	9-9/18
ZUR 4-7/8 5-1/8	5-5/8 5-7/8	5-3/4 6
BRX 5.50	7-11/16 13/16	8-3/16 1/4
ROM 11-5/8 12-1/8	12-1/4 12-3/4	12-1/4 12-3/4
AMS 6-31/43	6.60/70	6.70/80
TOK 3.25/32 27/32	4-8/32 10/32	4-17/32 19/32
ECU 8.00 8.25	8.31 8.43	8.62 8.75

Interest Rates

Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/16	8-7/16
3 months	8-1/16	8-7/16
6 months	8-1/8	8-1/2
1 year	8-1/8	8-9/16

BOMBAY

PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	82.50	87	86 MICO	590	590	595	
ACC 319	326	325	GRASIM	99.25	100	99 MOCIL	765	760	765	
ASIA PAINT 207.50	206.25	208.75	GSFC	127.50	133	127.50 ORKAY	22	21.50	22	
BAJAJ AUTO 382.50	382.50	380	HIND LEVER	73.50	72	72 PEICO	21	21	21	
BAR.RAYON 310	310	310	HINDALCO	174	189	188 PFIZER	73	73	73	
BON.DYING 123	122	122	HINDCOCA	110	110	111.50 PRE.AUTO	42.50	42.50	41	
BR. BOND 122.50	122	123	HINDMOTOR	29	28.75	29.15 RAYMOND	69.50	69	71	
BSE INDEX 669.80	660.23	660.23	IND ORG	31.50	33	33.50 RELIANCE	138.50	140	138	
CENTURYSPEC 1490	1490	1495	INDRAYON	85	85	85 SIEMENS	76	76	75	
COLGATE 313.75	315	315	INDROL	261.25	278.75	275 SPIC	41.50	44	45.50	
DEPAKFT 35	35	35.75	35.50	ITC	48.50	48	50 STOMILLS	225	230	230
EI.HOTEL 57	57	55	JKSINTH	76	77	76 TATA PUR	365	362.50	357.50	
ESKAYTE 132.50	132.50	132.50	L AND T	114	112	107 TATACHEM	112	111	111	
ESSAR 21.75	21.50	21.50	MARINDRA	85.50	86	87 TELCO	742.50	752.50	760	
GAR. POLY 68.75	68.75	68.75	MASTERSHR	15	14.85	15.15 TISCO	1205	1212	1196	
GE.SHIP 35.85	35.35	35	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590	

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	82.50	87	86 MICO	590	590	595
AEG 510	510	510	510	GNFC	41	43	42.50 MUKUND	80	83	81
AHBLANZ VR 215.6	212.0	202.0	208.75	GRASIM	99.25	100	99 MOCIL	765	760	765
BADENWKR 1823.0	1812.0	1812.0	1812.0	GSFC	127.50	133	127.50 ORKAY	22	21.50	22
BASF 154.50	154.50	154.50	154.50	HIND LEVER	73.50	72	72 PEICO	21	21	21
BAYER AG 292.4	292.4	292.4	292.4	HINDALCO	174	189	188 PFIZER	73	73	73
BAYER HYP 304.4	304.4	307.0	307.0	HINDMOTOR	29	28.75	29.15 RAYMOND	69.50	69	71
BAYER VER 370.0	370.0	370.0	370.0	IND ORG	31.50	33	33.50 RELIANCE	138.50	140	138
BBC 414.1	414.1	412.0	412.0	INDRAYON	85	85	85 SIEMENS	76	76	75
BHF 454.0	454.0	454.0	454.0	INDROL	261.25	278.75	275 SPIC	41.50	44	45.50
BHW 498.5	498.5	508.0	508.0	ITC	48.50	48	50 STOMILLS	225	230	230
COPPERZBK 241.5	241.5	244.9	244.9	JKSINTH	76	77	76 TATA PUR	365	362.50	357.50
CONTI GUM 251.0	251.0	263.2	263.2	MATHER PL	15	14.85	15.15 TISCO	1205	1212	1196
DATNER BEN 658.5	658.5	663.0	663.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
DEUTSC BNK 521.0	521.0	530.0	530.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
DLW 480.0	480.0	488.0	488.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
DRESBONR 302.0	302.0	301.0	301.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
EWG BACBOK 173.401/178.5	173.401/178.5	173.401/178.5	173.401/178.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
FAZ INDEX 558.44	558.44	561.98	561.98	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
WELDUCHE 369.48/369.48	369.48/369.48	369.48/369.48	369.48/369.48	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
WOLFSCHN 398.05/398.05	398.05/398.05	398.05/398.05	398.05/398.05	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
HARPER 477.0	477.0	478.0	478.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
HOECHST AG 302.4	302.4	306.5	306.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
HOESCH 221.5	221.5	223.5	223.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
HORTEN 221.0	221.0	224.5	224.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
HUSSEL HLD 472.0	472.0	476.0	476.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
KALI SALZ 191.0	191.0	193.0	193.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
KARSTADT 413.0	413.0	422.0	422.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
KAUFHOF 405.5	405.5	411.0	411.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
KLOCKE H 159.0	159.0	165.5	165.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
KLOCKE W 162.0	162.0	172.5	172.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
LINE 799.5	799.5	800.0	800.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
LUFTHANSA 170.0	170.0	172.5	172.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
MAN 249.5	249.5	255.5	255.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
MANNESMAN 214.0	214.0	219.5	219.5	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
MERCEDES 522.0	522.0	533.0	533.0	MATHER PL	50	51	50 VOLTAS	590	590	590
M										

Economic prosperity will return to Gulf: ministers

Bright forecast for Kuwait economy

NEW YORK, Feb 15, (KUNA): A number of Kuwaiti ministers and senior financial officials have asserted here that economic prosperity will return to the Gulf region now that Iran and Iraq are negotiating the end of their eight-year-old war.

"The economic boom will come gradually," Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi told the New York Sunday Daily News.

But he said "peace takes time and I hope our people will not over-react, and start thinking in terms of an immediate big bang system in the Gulf."

The magazine commented that an example of the "slow but steady" economic recovery process is Kuwait's successful credit-settlement initiative, known as the difficult debt settlement programme."

Capacity

It added that for nearly a decade, the Kuwaiti economy has been witnessing several difficulties such as the unofficial Manakh stock market crisis, to falling oil prices and the devastating effects of the Iran-Iraq war.

It commented that "Kuwaiti leaders demonstrated a tough capacity to hang on during hard times, and now that Iran and Iraq are talking peace, it appears economic prosperity will return to the Gulf."

"In response to such problems, our national authorities have not ceased since 1982 to find fundamental solutions to



Al Khorafi



Sheikh Ali



Sheikh Salem

the economic problems," the magazine quoted chairman and managing director of the Kuwaiti Real Estate Bank, Ali Alnashed.

Kuwait Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah told the American publication that "current peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran will have a positive effect on Kuwait's overall economic activity."

Services

"For the past two years, we have noticed the improvement in the value of assets in the domestic economy, which will have a positive effect on solving the credit settlement programme," Sheikh Salem added.

Sheikh Salem said in the commercial banking sector, banks are intensifying their overseas expansion and diversification.

Role

"The future of Kuwait appears economically bright for a country that faces tough times with tenacity," the New York Sunday Daily News said.

"We hold proof that we have managed to face our problems," the magazine quoted the finance minister as saying.

"Our international activities have been very successful. We are now trying to fill the gap in our European networks. The United States and the Far East will be next on our list," Oil Minister and (KPC) Chairman Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said.

In Kuwait, we do not look for booms and busts. We try to keep the economy as balanced as

possible," Sheikh Ali said, adding "we don't view developments such as the Iran-Iraq ceasefire as solving all of our problems."

Effects

The magazine said despite the negative effects of the Gulf war, shipping risks in the Arabian Gulf and other adverse events during the 1980s, "the KPC steered through the politically turbulent and war-torn Arabian Gulf with the adoption of swift and effective flexible policies."

Sheikh Ali said though 50 per cent of the country's income is generated from oil, Kuwait can insulate itself from the dangerous effects of oil price fluctuations to a certain degree by income from investments.

KPC has expanded its exploration activities to several countries, including China, as part of a cautious and gradual growth strategy that appears "to be working well," Sheikh Ali said.

Total revenue for the 1986-1987 year from KPC and subsidiary companies were KD2,961.8 million (\$9,773,940), the report concluded.

Reuters pre-tax profits surge

LONDON, Feb 15, (Reuters): The international news and information agency, Reuters Holdings PLC said yesterday its pre-tax profits rose by 20.5 per cent in 1988.

Reuters managing director Glen Renfrew said in a statement accompanying the company's annual results, he expected a recent rationalisation programme and several new products to aid the group's performance in the current year.

"Gross new orders for Reuter products remain strong and, although cancellations are still heavy, the net new order rate is high enough to generate continued good growth," he said.

Increased

Reuters said pre-tax profits rose 20.5 per cent to £215.4 million (\$376 million) in the year ending Dec 31, 1988. The pre-tax profit margin had increased to 21.5 per cent from 20.6 per cent.

Renfrew said: "Barring additional major setbacks for financial markets or substantial further strengthening of sterling, Reuters should continue to do well."

The company said gross new orders for core information and dealing products remained near record levels in 1988 and large

numbers of new subscribers were signed up. But cancellations were also heavy.

Net new orders remained below the peaks of 1987 throughout the year, but high enough to produce good revenue growth, the company said, without giving figures.

"Trading conditions were worst in major financial centres where growth had been most hectic," Renfrew said in the statement.

Rationalised

"However, we enjoyed strong growth in the emerging industrial powers of the western Pacific and in some of the national markets of Continental Europe."

Reuters said it had rationalised its management structure

and attacked the costs of marketing, development, editorial and overheads. The group's structure is now based on three geographical areas instead of four and several regional administrations have been eliminated.

Services

Five product groups have been created to handle marketing and development.

Revenue grew in 1988 by 15.7 per cent to £1 billion (\$1.76 billion).

Growth was restrained by the hardening of sterling against all Reuters major trading currencies except the yen, by cancellation of subscription services and by a decline in the sales of trading room systems by Reuters subsidiary Rich Inc from the heights reached in 1987. The company gave no detailed figures.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

UNITED ARAB SHIPPING COMPANY SAG WISHES TO ADVISE ALL CONCERNED

that:

MR SALMAN DAWOUD AL HASHIM

Ex-manager, American Services based in New York has ceased to be in the services of the company effective 1.2.1989

and

MR MOHAMMED KAZIM AL MAZEEDI

Ex-marketing manager, American Services also based in New York has ceased to be in the services of the company effective 4.2.1989.

Therefore

UASC is not responsible for any dealings with any of the above named, on behalf of the company as from the dates mentioned above.

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South Africa sees black revolution on cricket pitch

ATTERIDGEVILLE, South Africa, Feb 15, (Reuters): A quiet cricketing revolution has swept the sprawling black townships of South Africa.

The politics which have effectively ostracised South African sport from the outside world seem a long way from the practice nets at the side of a dusty school playground in this poor, blacks-only suburb of Pretoria.

A group of boys aged 10 to 14 are attending one of the scores of clinics organised by the South African Cricket Union (SACU) where the basics of batting and bowling are being taught to an estimated 60,000 of the nation's black youngsters.

The clinic at Palongeng senior primary school has 60 boys, almost euphoric with enthusiasm, sharing three sets of pads and three bats.

Paces

The boys, watched enviously from the sidelines by curious passers-by, go through their paces under the eagle eye of English county cricketer Russell Cobb and black teacher-cum-coach Charles Kekana.

Cobb, spending the European winter playing professionally for a Pretoria-based provincial team, spends his mornings coaching in the township clinics, convinced that he is playing his part in abolishing sporting apartheid.

"This is the way I see the end of apartheid. By encouraging cricket here, we are paving the way to multi-racial teams in the future," Cobb said.

Cobb is taking a calculated career risk.

The International Cricket Conference (ICC), the sport's world governing body, last month ruled that any player with South African sporting links after April 1 should be banned from Test cricket for up to five years.

"I had to weigh up whether or not I had any chance of playing for England. I don't think I do now. If I had been younger, I would have said no to South Africa," said 27-year-old Cobb.

Cobb said he had received nothing but sympathy and understanding over his actions from his Leicestershire county colleagues, few of whom, he said, the clinics to succeed.

"The enthusiasm for the game is incredible. That alone makes it worthwhile," he said.

The township programme is a key weapon in the SACU's fight to gain international recognition for its assertion that cricket in South Africa is now run on non-racial lines and should therefore be allowed back into the world's sporting fold.

Critics, however, say that South Africa's system of separate schooling and segregated areas for different races prevent blacks from gaining equal exposure to the game, which is still the domain of the exclusive white schools.

Although the township programme is in only its second, tentative year, it has helped to push the sport to hitherto unprecedented heights of popularity — and the skills are following swiftly.

Organises

"It's already part of the township culture," said Francois Weideman, former Transvaal and northern Transvaal pace bowler who organises the black training clinics.

"A few years ago, soccer was the game on the streets. Now you get thousands turning out for cricket matches and cricket leagues. It's fantastic."

Professional coaches such as Cobb are few and far between.

Because of that, coaching clinics have therefore been launched in the townships and hundreds of primary school teachers, many of them women, have gone back to school themselves to learn the intricacies of bowling, batting, and the etiquette of the game.

Weideman's main problem is harnessing the runaway success of his programmes.

"We have been asked to start clinics in black homelands and for older pupils. But our resources at this stage mean that we have to restrict it to under-14s and to the major townships," he said.

Predict

Already, the most promising black pupils have been selected for district and provincial schools teams which are normally the preserve of white private schoolboys.

Weideman and Cobb predict in a few more years blacks will take their place in the national team, the Springboks.

"Give us 10 years and we will have produced a Springbok from the clinics," Cobb said.

"He's a pessimist. Give us eight years," was the swift rejoinder from Weideman.

However, long it takes, the SACU hopes that South Africa's black cricketing revolution will make it ever harder for the ICC to continue keeping it out in the cold.

MAVERICKS BRUSH ASIDE CLIPPERS

Newman takes Knicks to victory

NEW YORK, Feb 15, (AP): John Newman scored 22 points, six of which sparked a second-quarter run, leading the New York Knicks to their sixth consecutive victory, 129-117 over the Charlotte Hornets in a National Basketball Association game played last night.

The Hornets took their largest lead at 51-43 with 5:07 left in the first half before the Knicks closed the period with a 15-4 run that Newman opened with a basket and four free throws, giving the Knicks a 58-55 lead at halftime.

76ers 113, Pacers 108

Charles Barkley had 26 points and 14 rebounds, lifting the Philadelphia 76ers to a 113-108 victory over Indiana, handing the Pacers their eighth straight loss.

The Sixers, up by 15 at half-time, saw their lead slip to 100-96 with five minutes left after Indiana's Vern Fleming hit a basket and two free throws and Wayman Tisdale scored on a rebound.

Cavaliers 109, Heat 98

The Cleveland Cavaliers, the best team in the NBA, beat the Miami Heat, with the League's worst record, 109-98, as Mark Price scored 21 points and Larry Nance 20.

Miami, 5-41, trailed 78-69 at the end of the third quarter, but six straight points from Kevin Edwards helped the heat close the gap to 88-81 with 7:29 left.

Rockets 137, Celtics 123

Akeem Olajuwon had 35



Jordan scored 32 points for Bulls but failed to save his team from defeat

points and 19 rebounds and the Houston Rockets rolled to their highest point total of the season in a 137-123 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Sleepy Floyd contributed 18

points and 10 assists as the Rockets won their third straight and their eighth in the last 10 games.

Bucks 132, Nets 91

Terry Cummings scored 28 points and the Milwaukee Bucks

opened a 30-point halftime lead in crushing the New Jersey Nets 132-91 for their eighth straight homecourt victory.

Milwaukee shot 62 per cent in the first half to only 27 per cent for the Nets and ran up a 66-36 halftime lead. Eight players reached double figures as the Bucks hit their season-high for points.

Mavericks 117, Clippers 98

Mark Aguirre scored 15 of his 29 points in the first quarter and the Dallas Mavericks eased to a 117-98 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Dallas hit 16 of its 22 first-period shots, 73 per cent, en route to a 37-20 lead over the Clippers, who have won only one of their last 21 games.

Hawks 106, Bulls 98

John Barnes came off the bench to score eight fourth-quarter points and Dominique Wilkins scored 36 as the Atlanta Hawks defeated the Chicago Bulls 106-98.

The Hawks took advantage of Michael Jordan's six consecutive missed free throws in the final minutes for their first win in three games. Jordan finished with 32 points.

Jazz 119, Nuggets 105

Karl Malone scored 28 points and John Stockton had 21 assists as the Utah Jazz overcame a 14-point halftime deficit and outscored the Denver Nuggets 43-14 in the third quarter of a 119-105 victory.

Malone also had 14 rebounds, while Stockton added 22 points.

Walter Davis and Michael

Adams had 18 points each for the Nuggets, who finished the second quarter with a 20-8 run for a 60-46 halftime advantage.

Sons 129, Spurs 113

Xavier McDaniel scored 30 points and Nate McMillan had a triple-double, leading the Seattle SuperSonics to a 129-113 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

McMillan had 10 points, 14 rebounds and a 12 assists, Dale Ellis added 22 points and Alton Lister had 20 points and five blocked shots for the Sonics.

Pistons 111, Lakers 103

Joe Dumars scored 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and Detroit outscored Los Angeles 13-2 in the final two minutes to beat the Lakers 111-103.

The Pistons trailed 96-91 with 4:36 to play before Dumars keyed a 7-0 streak with a 3-pointer and jumper, giving Detroit a 98-96 lead.

Bullets 107, Kings 99

LeBron Echols scored 10 of his 12 points in the final quarter, lifting the Washington Bullets to a 107-99 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Terry Catledge had 19 points and 14 rebounds and Jeff Malone 18 points as the Bullets snapped a six-game road losing streak.

Results

New York	103	Chicago	117
Philadelphia	113	Indiana	108
Cleveland	109	Miami	98
Houston	137	Boston	123
Dallas	117	Los Angeles	98
Milwaukee	132	New Jersey	91
Atlanta	108	Chicago	96
Utah	119	Denver	105
Seattle	129	San Antonio	113
Detroit	111	LA Lakers	103
Washington	107	Sacramento	99

Tyson and Givens finalize divorce



Mike Tyson

1988, and their union has been marked by a series of violent and acrimonious battles, waged from New Jersey to Vancouver to the Soviet Union.

Tyson and Givens aired their grievances on national television, and the champion accused Givens of drugging him for one of the interviews. Tyson later cursed his wife at a news conference. Givens, in turn, sued him for character defamation.

Tyson had also filed for divorce and annulment in New Jersey and Givens filed in California.

A week before Givens filed for divorce on Oct 7, the actress told television interviewer Barbara Walters that life with Tyson was "torture ... pure hell ... worse than anything I could possibly imagine." Family members said Tyson beat Givens.

Tyson, who has closed his workouts to reporters, recently presented his difficulties with Givens stemmed from his inability to control his emotions.



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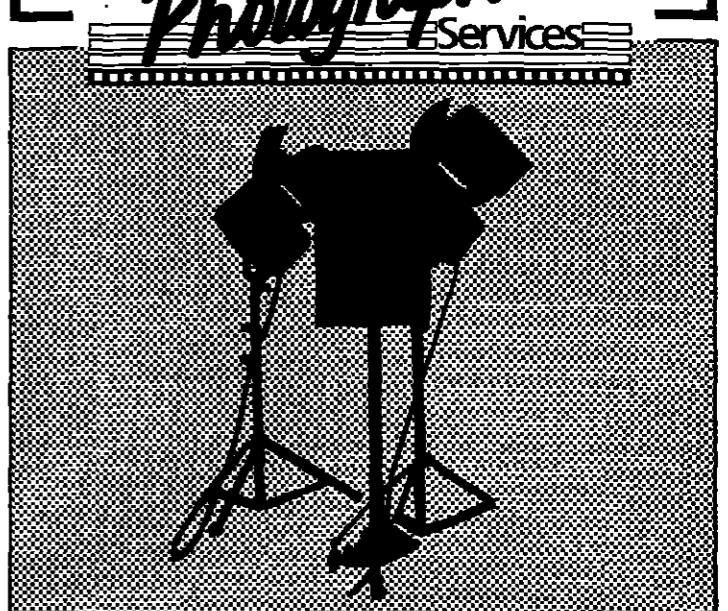
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Intikhab raps New Zealand umpires

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb 15, (AP): Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam today criticised the standard of umpiring in the second cricket Test against New Zealand, which ended in a draw at the Basin Reserve yesterday.

Intikhab told the New Zealand Herald newspaper that the umpiring in the match stressed the need for world action on the issue.

Biased

"There were just too many bad decisions in this Test. I am not saying the umpires were biased, but that they were inefficient," he said.

The match was umpired by Steve Woodward — New Zealand's most experienced official, who was in his 19th

Test — and Steve Dunne, who was standing in his first Test.

Pakistan was unhappy with verdicts against Salim Malik, who was caught behind, and century maker Javed Miandad, who was given out leg before wicket.

Pakistan was also angry that New Zealand batsman Andrew Jones was given not out after a confident appeal for a catch by wicket-keeper Saleem Yousuf on the final day.

"In Pakistan we have appointed neutral observers to examine the umpiring.

"Bad umpiring is bad for the game, and spoils everything. It does not only happen when Pakistan plays New Zealand. It happens all over the world."

Intikhab said decisions on appointing neutral umpires had to come from the International Cricket Conference.

have lost control of the match at 72 for five.

Saleem joined Bastaki at this stage and pulled their team to 166 without being separated. Saleem and Bastaki scored 45 runs each.

Ajaz took three wickets while Naeem got two.

Chasing seven runs an over, Zarga were off to a bad start after they lost Iqbal in Ronnie's first over. Zahid and Farhat took the score to 66 but fell behind the required run-rate.

Jasim took three wickets in the space of nine deliveries to put more pressure on Zarga. Mathews (three for nine) and Tariq (two for 14) polished off the Zarga tail.

HCC now meet Bright Stars in the semifinals tomorrow.

HCC reach semifinals

HOLDERS Hyderabad Cricket Club reached the semifinals of the YMCA Goodyear Cup cricket tournament with a 64-run victory over Zarga Cricket Club at the Ahmadi Governorate ground earlier this week.

HCC skipper Saleem lost the toss but his team was put in to bat. Rodney and Masood opened the innings for HCC and put on 43 runs off the first six overs.

Masood (22) was the first to lose his wicket when he was bowled by Ajaz. The same bowler accounted for Rodney (20) a few runs later.

Ajaz became Ajaz's third victim and HCC seemed to be in some sort of trouble. HCC lost two more wickets and seemed to

have lost control of the match at 72 for five.

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SPORTS

SELES UPSETS SAVCHENKO

Graf sails past Martin in opener



Graf: scored an easy victory

FAIRFAX, Virginia, Feb 15. (UPI): Top-ranked Steffi Graf of West Germany needed just 39 minutes to dispatch amateur Stacey Martin yesterday, setting up a second-round meeting with Carling Bassett-Seguso in the \$300,000 Virginia Slims of Washington.

Graf, in her first official tournament match since winning the Australian Open, surrendered just five points off her serve in the 6-1, 6-1 victory, while producing four aces and four love service games.

"Sometimes on her serve, which wasn't too strong, I made more easy mistakes than usual," Graf said. "But otherwise, I felt very good and I enjoyed it."

Martin, 18, an American junior player and college freshman, did not enjoy the match quite as much.

"I didn't know what to expect. My coach said, 'just try your best and try to play your game,'" Martin said. "Given the player and my own nervousness, I don't know if I would have done anything differently. I just learned a lot of things — things I need to work on myself and things I have

to improve on to get to that level of play."

Graf, 19, posted a 72-3 tournament match record in 1988 and has an unblemished 8-0 mark in 1989 tournament play. She had no trouble in her first meeting with Martin, ranked 90th in the world.

"Some players are afraid of you, and some feel when they play against the No. 1 player they have nothing to lose and they play their best tennis," Graf said of Martin. "But she's 18 years old, and she hasn't played too many big tournaments. I think she was nervous."

In other matches, 15-year-old Yugoslav amateur Monica Seles registered the biggest upset of the day, dubbing the Soviet Union's Larisa Savchenko, the tournament's seventh seed, 6-0, 6-2, in just 51 minutes.

Canadian Bassett-Seguso, playing her first tournament match since November, bested qualifier Renata Baranski of the United States 6-3, 6-1.

Fourth seed Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union defeated Camille Benjamin of the United States 7-5, 6-1. Gigi Fernandez of Puerto Rico outlasted France's

Natalia Tauziat 5-7, 7-6(7-4), 7-6(7-4). And eighth seed Helen Kelesi of Canada downed peanut Louie Harper of the United States 6-7(11-9), 6-3, 6-1.

Bassett-Seguso, 21, has been ranked as high as No. 8 in the world (March 1985) during her eight-year professional career. But she took time off from the tour last year to have a baby after marrying US Davis Cup star Robert Seguso and her ranking fell to 244th in the world. The Toronto native has worked her way back to No. 142 on the computer and showed flashes of her old form in downing Baranski, ranked No. 183.

Seles, a left-hander, won the first seven games of her match and won the first set in 19 minutes against Savchenko, the world's 16th-ranked player. She forced six service breaks while suffering just one break.

"She was pretty inconsistent, so I took some chances," Seles said. "She was a little bit surprised."

Seles was playing in her first tournament match in six months and played just three tournaments in 1988.



Agassi: thrashed Pugh

Agassi crushes Pugh to reach third round

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 15. (UPI): Top seeded Andre Agassi cruised into the third round of the \$415,000 Volvo tennis tournament with a 6-2, 6-3 victory last night over Jim Pugh.

Agassi broke Pugh in the second game of the first set to go up 2-0 and eased to a 6-2 decision. Agassi, the third-ranked player in the world, picked up a service break in the fourth game of the second set and hit a service winner on match point.

"His serving and my returning set the tone of the match," said Agassi, of the United States. "I got some big points early off his serve and it broke his confidence and he was really never able to get it back. That was the difference in the match."

Tim Mayotte and Brad Gilbert, two other top seeds in the tournament, advanced to the round of 16 with easy victories. Mayotte, the No. 3 seed, from the United States, needed one hour to eliminate Australian Simon Youl, 6-2, 6-3. Gilbert, the No. 6 seed, from the United States, defeated Scott Davis of the United States 6-1, 6-2.

Mayotte, playing equally effective from the baseline and from the net, put together first-set service breaks in the first, third, and fifth games to go up

6-1. Mayotte, ranked No. 12 in the world, broke Youl in the first game of the second set and finished at 6-3.

Gilbert, ranked No. 19 in the world, needed 1 hour, 7 minutes to defeat Davis, who managed to hold serve just three times. Gilbert closed out the match the way he started it, with a backhand cross court passing shot.

No. 7 seed Kevin Curren of Austin, Texas, was inconsistent but came away with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Richard Matuszewski of the US. Curren fired 11 aces during the match which lasted 1 hour, 34 minutes.

Australian Broderick Dyke provided a mild upset, knocking off No. 14 Paul Amatoone of the US 7-6(7-4), 6-3.

Amos Mansdorf, the No. 9 seed, struggled in his three-set match with Canadian Glenn Michibata, dropping the first set 5-7. Mansdorf came back and wore Michibata down behind a strong volley game to take the next two sets 6-1, 6-1.

In another second round action, John Kreik, the No. 16 seed, from the US eliminated Bill Scanlon of the US 6-1, 6-3 and Michael Chang, the 11th seed from the US defeated Tom Nijssen of Holland 6-1, 6-3.

In over-matches, new courses for tennis players

FAIRFAX, Virginia, Feb 15. (UPI): American Pam Shriver had a long talk with former coach, Don Candy, and made the decision to re-think her career.

"I've got to take care of me for awhile. I've been trying to do too much. I have to figure out a way to manage everything," she said.

Shriver said it could be five or six weeks before she returns to tournament singles play.

"I can't say when I'll play singles again," Shriver said. "I'm taking it one step at a time. I still want to play singles but not until I'm ready. For too long, I've been playing without being ready."

Shriver, who has reached a Grand Slam singles final since the 1978 US Open.

Returns

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